



## ANNE FRANK UNCENSORED

DAY 2

A secret love:  
Anne's passion for  
Peter van Daan  
PAGES 18, 19



## NEW YEAR NEW JOB

Home y office  
Page 17

PLUS  
free personal profile  
TOKEN 2 PAGE 18



## LIBBY PURVES

Power politics:  
who's the  
toughest of  
them all?  
PAGE 20



GERMANY'S  
WAR WITH THE  
MOVIEMAKERS  
PAGE 14

HOLLYWOOD

Rises are reprehensible, says Scott

# Soaring cost of civil justice under attack

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to increase costs by up to 150 per cent for millions of people who pursue civil disputes in the courts were denounced as "thoroughly objectionable and reprehensible" yesterday by Sir Richard Scott, the head of the country's civil justice system.

The increases, which come into force tomorrow, are part of controversial Government plans to make civil justice pay for itself.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has announced hefty fee rises for all civil court actions — from divorce to debt recovery, rents to suing noisy neighbours — so that he can recoup the £10 million cost of civil justice, including judges' salaries and court buildings.

The cost of a divorce petition, for example, rises from £80 to £150, compared with £40 18 months ago. The cost of lodging trial papers and asking for a date in the county courts — which in the 1980s was free — doubles from £50 last year to £100.

Consumer and legal groups also gave warning that the rises — coupled with the scrapping of fee exemptions for those on income support — would hit the poorest most, and that many low income households would be unable to pursue their rights.

The plans, the last stage of a four-year policy to make civil justice self-financing, will reap an extra £50 million in court fees and bring the total fee income raised from court users to £310 million — virtually the full cost of running civil courts.

Sir Richard, who as head of the High Court Chancery division is one of the most senior judges in England and Wales, said he had "no doubt" the Lord Chancellor had "no alternative but to increase court fees because of Treasury constraints on his budget".

But there was a danger that people would be deterred from using the courts. "Access to justice requires that justice should be reasonably accessible



Scott: civil justice is bulwark of civilised state

without excessive cost. Civil proceedings are already very expensive. People often had no choice about whether or not they were involved in a civil dispute.

"The policy fails to recognise that the civil justice system, like the criminal justice system, the bulwark of a civilised state and the maintenance of order within that state. People have to use the civil courts. They can't engage in self-help in a way which would lead to chaos."

Sir Richard, who is in charge of implementing reforms to the civil justice system proposed by Lord Woolf, added that people with a boundary dispute could not just "go out and pull up their fence and say that's where it should be — they would be subjected to injunctions and have to go to court. Nor can they go and demand rents with threats."

He added that the policy was of concern because it "devalued" the civil justice system and raised questions over how the Government would treat other matters such as the Woolf reforms.

The fee increases, which also require new fees for certain court work as well as scrapping previous fee exemptions for those who are not well-off, also came under fire from the Legal Action Group and the Advice Services. Vicki Chapman, the policy

officer of the Legal Action Group, criticised the scrapping of the exemption from court fees for those on income support. Fees could be limited in hardship cases, but only in small claims and undefended divorce cases, she said.

The new fees would hit debtors particularly hard. "For the first time they will face substantial costs if they want to apply to the court to vary payment of a debt or have a judgment set aside. Someone paying three or four debts who loses his job and as a result wants to arrange for lower payments to debtors would face court fees of £30 or £40."

The new fees will now cover 92 per cent of the total cost of running the civil courts, including accommodation and judges' salaries, except for the small amount provided by the state in the shape of fee reductions for those who are not well-off. She said the decision to make litigants bear the burden of judges' salaries and accommodation costs had never been debated by Parliament.

Sir Richard also attacked the notion of judges' salaries coming out of fees paid by litigants. It was reminiscent of the last century when the judge "put out his hand and was paid by the litigant." "Judges are part of the constitutional framework of the state and I don't see any justification for their salaries to be paid for in this way."

Mark Sefton, the policy officer of the county court advisers' group of the Advice Services Alliance, said the changes would hit thousands of the poorest users extremely hard. Debtors could even lose their homes due to being unable to pay the £10 fee needed to return to court to vary an order against them or have a possession order suspended.

The Lord Chancellor's Department said the increases brought civil court fee income "more in line with the costs of the administration of justice".



Mr Major, wearing a tribal turban presented to him, and his wife Norma, trying a dupatta, are greeted at Nandi Khotal yesterday

## Majors given view of the Great Game

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR  
IN THE KHYBER PASS

IT WAS, according to the historian Sir John Kaye, a tragedy whose "complete awfulness was unexampled in the history of the world". John Major yesterday stood at Mitchini Point in the Khyber Pass on Pakistan's northwest frontier looking into Afghanistan and the scene of one of Britain's biggest military failures: the retreat from Kabul in 1842.

It was 155 years to the day since Dr William Brydon of the Army Medical Corps rode his horse into the safety of the British garrison at Jalalabad, the only survivor of the 16,500-strong force of British and Indian troops and camp followers who perished through starvation, the cold and at the hands of Afghan tribesmen as they tried to get back to India.

Two and a half years earlier 10,000 Crown troops and 6,000 Indians had marched into Kabul virtually unopposed as the British took action which they hoped could settle the Great Game — the struggle between Tsarist Russia and Britain for mastery in

central Asia, once and for all. They feared the Afghans were getting too close to the Russians and wanted to kill the threat of another invasion through the pass, the gateway to the subcontinent.

In vain did the elderly Duke of Wellington warn that the problems would start when the military success ended. Britain made the mistake of sending many of the troops back to India, leaving a much smaller force with families and other civilians in a cantonment outside Kabul. In November 1841 a mob stormed the home of the British Resident, Sir Alexander Burnes, and killed him.

A deal guaranteeing the occupiers a safe retreat back to the Indian border was never honoured. They were murdered by bandits in vast numbers. By the ninth day only six had survived. Five of them were slaughtered, leaving only Dr Brydon, his sword broken in his last fight, to reach the sanctuary of the garrison.

Yesterday the preoccupation of Mr Major, another great survivor, was not history but a modern and equally chilling war — the battle against the



Lone survivor: Dr Brydon riding back

drug barons who use the pass and others like it to bring in their lethal stocks of opium from the Afghan poppy fields.

The task faced by the anti-narcotics forces, to which Britain contributes training and other assistance, including Customs and Excise officers, appears as uphill as that facing those ill-fated soldiers and families of another era.

Pakistan supplies 70 per cent of the heroin sold in Europe; the drug economy is calculated at £21 billion a year. Up here in this barren, unfriendly terrain the enforcement agencies are fighting a war they know they can never totally win. Drug manufac-

ture and smuggling is part of the life in the tribal areas of the northwest frontier.

Mr Major, who was briefed on the history of the pass by the chief of the Frontier Corps, which includes the renowned Khyber Rifles, wanted to know how much of their time was spent on the drugs battle. Major-General Fazal Ghafor told him that he was consumed by it.

Mr Major listened open-mouthed as he told how he had deployed 5,000 of his men in a drugs operation last year which resulted in 17 laboratories, where the opium is turned into heroin, being razed and six tonnes of opium-based products seized. The enforcement men admit that as quickly as those premises are destroyed others will be quickly erected. Of all the bad men in the Khyber perhaps the worst was Haji Ayub

Continued on page 2, col 4

## Muslims blamed for letter-bomb

Islamic extremists were believed to be behind a letter-bomb attack which injured two security guards at a Saudi-owned Arab newspaper's base in Kensington.

Two similar devices were sent to the paper's office in the UN building in New York. The paper, *al-Hayat*, has backed the Middle East peace process. Page 4

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## Millennium show is scaled down

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

ORGANISERS yesterday proposed new, scaled-down plans for the troubled Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich.

In a second attempt to secure £200 million in National Lottery funds, Millennium Central, organiser of the project, reduced the scale of its plans and lopped £120 million off its £700 million budget. The revised plans show that only ten million people and not 13 million are expected to visit the site.

Several attractions have been axed, including two of the 12 planned pavilions, an auditorium, a pier and covered walkways. The giant dome, which is the bid's centrepiece, will remain.

The revised business plan, which also relies on a commitment to underwrite the scheme, was studied by Virginia Bottomley and other members of the Millennium Commission yesterday. They provisionally approved it and privately agreed that £200

million of National Lottery cash should be provided.

But the money will be forthcoming only if Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, gives Labour's support at a meeting with Jennifer Page, the commission's chief executive, tomorrow.

Millennium Central was forced to submit a revised budget when the Millennium Commission and Jack Cunningham both expressed alarm at the spiralling £700 million cost of the giant exhibition. The revised cost of the scheme is £580 million, against an estimated income of £520 million. The shortfall of £60 million is expected to be met by sponsorship, which Millennium Central hopes will materialise when the project is given the go-ahead and more detailed plans for the content of the exhibition are revealed.

Transsexual payout, page 2



## Max Clifford in studio row

Pandemonium broke out in a BBC television studio when Max Clifford, the publicist, lunged at one of his arch-enemies, Roger Gale, Conservative MP for Thanet. Annabel Heseltine, daughter of the deputy Prime Minister, was accidentally pushed back into her seat. Derek Hatton pulled Mr Clifford away as Robert Kilroy-Silk, the presenter, tried to restore calm. Page 3

## Live lobsters plunge stores into hot water

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

COMING soon to a supermarket near you: live lobster, fresh from the tank, ready to be popped into a paper bag and taken home to be boiled for supper.

But beware — lobsters may not be the only red-faced creatures capable of administering a nasty nip at the checkout. As stores plan the DIY dinners — popular on the Continent and in America — angry animal welfare activists are preparing for a fight.

In the perennial quest for new luxury foods the more upmarket supermarkets are studying plans to keep live lobsters in store tanks. Waitrose, one supermarket understood to be considering the move, would not comment last night.

But New England Lobsters International Ltd, one of the biggest Canadian lobster importers to Britain, agreed moves were afoot at selected stores. "It's a discussion we have been having with them

for a while," said Fred Stroyan, the managing director. "The British are a bit squeamish but the lobsters are perfectly happy in the tanks." Animal welfare organisations were quick to denounce the move yesterday. "We would urge supermarkets not to do this and customers not to buy live lobsters," said Peter Stevenson, political and legal director of Compassion in World Farming. "It is not humane to throw them into a pot of boiling water."

Handling tip: Lobsters sold live normally have their claws bound with rubber bands. To ensure the creature is not troublesome at home it is advised to put it upside down on its head and claws and stroke the back of its head until it falls asleep. Many chefs believe suffering can be avoided if lobsters are killed with a spike through the head immediately before boiling.

Leading article, page 21

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TV & RADIO ..... 50, 51  
WEATHER ..... 26  
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LETTERS ..... 21, 31  
OBITUARIES ..... 23  
LIBBY PURVES ..... 20

ARTS ..... 35-37  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 48  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 22

SPORT ..... 47-50, 52  
FEATURES ..... 17-19  
LAW ..... 39, 43

مكتبة من الأصل



## Unlikely, but is there another, wilder, side to Sir George?

BETTY BOOTHROYD has the most marvellous tan. Vying only with that of Harry Greenway (C. Ealing N) in its nut-brown splendour (though with Mr Greenway the nut quality is more than skin-deep) the tan defies all assumptions.

Surely duty must be Madam Speaker to her Commons apartment throughout the holiday season; and Greenway is a famously hard-working constituency MP. Throughout the winter chill two day-long shifts of UVA-rich sunlight must have lit the

Speaker's House and Ealing. Observing MPs on their first day back, this sketchwriter found it hard to concentrate on serious matters. The topic was Transport. John Bowis, the junior minister, brought important news on Responsible Cycling — but something else troubled this sketch. Fellow minister John Watts had the latest on the Northfleet bypass — but still I was distracted.

How shall we put this? At a new year party, I was told by a usually reliable source that there was a Conservative MP

who has had his navel pierced and wears a discreet gold ring under his bespoke cotton shirt, just above the belt line. With so much salacious gossip in the air about other Tory backbenchers, it has proved hard to banish this allegation from one's thoughts.

Yesterday it was impossible. As Secretary of State Sir George Young expatiated with his habitual gloomy rationality on the Marine Accident Investigation Branch and the approaches to Milford Haven Harbour,

one even wondered whether it could be him. Could there be another, wilder, side to Sir George? Highly unlikely.

Next up was Labour's Clive Soley (Hammersmith), ever-earnest, anxious yesterday about the risks involved in his own hobby, cycling. "When I cycle," he told the ever-helpful Mr Bowis, "I feel like a by-election waiting to



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH



happen." Bowis, a thinking-man's Mr Blobby, was reassuring. As he explained his new "Cycle-safe" campaign I scanned the area above his belt for the slightest bump — but in vain.

John Marshall (C. Hendon S) rose to his feet. For all the years he has been in Parliament, the amazingly self-confident Mr Marshall has

retained the knack of engendering anew, with each new dawn, the expectation that he might be about to say something interesting. But he never does. Red braces — perhaps. A navel ring? Never.

But yesterday Mr Marshall got about as interesting as he can get, striking panic into the hearts of all who use the London Underground's Northern Line, when he announced to startled MPs that he had driven one of the new trains. We heard the sound of six hundred season tickets being shredded. A man who

displays a near-pathological inability to stop at the end of his Question can hardly be trusted to stop at the end of the Northern Line, or intermediate stations.

There followed an odd little skirmish about the privatisation of London Underground, the Transport Secretary and his Labour Shadow circling each other warily, shadow-boxing. Sir George was not quite saying the Tories would privatise, and his Opposition Shadow, Andrew Smith, was not quite saying Labour would fight it

tooth and nail. Glenda Jackson, the junior spokesman, ploughed in and called privatisation "an abyss", spoiling the careful minut.

When Questions were over, Miss Boothroyd informed MPs that in future the Commons "Crown Portcullis" emblem was not to be used in circumstances which demeaned "the dignity of the House". No tattoos then, we mused. My brain still in turmoil about the navel ring, I thought I saw a Tory backbencher slip his hand nervously over his left buttock.

## Lottery grant to sex change group vexes Bottomley

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A LOTTERY grant to a charity working with transsexuals and transvestites triggered fresh clashes between Virginia Bottomley and the National Lottery Charities Board yesterday.

Timothy Hornsby, the board's chief executive, said that the £33,700 award to the Gender Trust, which provides counselling for transsexuals, was "exactly the sort of grant the Board should be giving".

"The Trust reaches out to people who either feel trapped in the wrong body and want surgical intervention, or those who don't want to go under the surgeon's knife but want to dress up. It is the sort of thing you can have a snigger about, but this is part of the reality of the darker corners of life out there," Mr Hornsby said.

But the Heritage Secretary is understood to be "extremely upset". She has previously warned the lottery grant-giving bodies that the public would stop buying tickets if they continued to give money to controversial minority groups. "It is for the Charities Board to explain and account for its action in areas which may not attract widespread public endorsement," she said.

Toby Jessel, Conservative MP for Twickenham and a member of the National Heritage Select Committee, said: "My own preference is that causes like the Gender Trust should not be financed with National Lottery money because they are rather controversial and would be better funded by the NHS."

Valerie Riches, director of Family & Youth Concern, which campaigns for traditional family values, said the

board appeared to have its priorities twisted. "I wouldn't have thought that the majority of the population would be very happy ... there are so many bigger problems in society."

A spokeswoman for the Gender Trust said that an estimated 65,000 people in the UK had problems living with their gender and help on the NHS was very limited. "We are not dealing with bad or mad people, but people who are, for the most part very lonely and very sad."

"It is not to do with sex, but with identity. It is very important for any human being that they know who they are."

The grant is to help the trust, which says it has helped 50,000 people since it was set up in 1990, to employ its first paid staff member and set up an office. The trust is run by volunteers and is funded by a membership subscription.

Until now the trust has been run purely by volunteers and a board of 12 trustees. Its patrons include Professor Richard Green, Professor Steven Hirsch and Dr Donald Montgomery from the Charing Cross Hospital gender identity clinic.

Last month a Charities Board grant of £75,000 to an advice group for male prostitutes, Men Who Enjoy Sex With Men Action Committee, was condemned by Graham Riddick, Tory MP for Colne Valley, as "unbelievable".

The latest round of grants comprises 65 awards worth £9.6 million. They include £161,112 to the National Association for Premenstrual Syndrome to help run a public awareness campaign.



Tony Blair, the Labour leader, talking to Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, at the House of Commons yesterday. John Prescott, Mr Blair's deputy, who also met Mr Patten, leaves for the colony and Peking today

## Clarke adviser had child-porn videos

By ADRIAN LEE

AN ADVISER to Kenneth Clarke at the Treasury was yesterday ordered to undergo counselling after child pornography was discovered at his home. Peter Hayden, 42, a civil servant whose role involved briefing the Chancellor and other ministers, was told that only his remorse and previous good character saved him from jail.

He has been suspended from his post in the Treasury's International Finance Directorate since the police raid. Breat magistrates in north London were told that three of the 110 videos seized after a tip-off in May last year featured children. Some of those involved were aged 13. Sentencing Hayden, of Kilburn, north London, to 18

months' probation, including the counselling course, Neil McKinnick, the stipendiary magistrate, said: "Possession of indecent videos of children under 16 is conduct right-thinking members of the public find repulsive and nauseating and this behaviour will not be tolerated. People who buy videos of a paedophilic nature from sex shops contribute to the indirect exploitation of children involved."

Hayden admitted three counts of possessing indecent photographs of children under the age of 16. But Angus Hamilton, for Hayden, said his client had no idea the videos contained scenes of under-age sex. The videos had been bought from sex shops in Soho.

## Labour zero option for computer crisis

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

LABOUR is to pledge more help for business and public services to cope with the millennium computer crisis being caused by the date change in 2000.

Many computer systems cannot recognise the new century because they rely on the last two digits to signify the date. When the millennium arrives, they will theoretically assume it is the year 1900. Among the initiatives being developed by Derek Foster, Shadow Public Services Minister, are crack squads of private troubleshooters to help companies with difficulties, and a new telephone hotline offering speedy advice.

It is another attempt by Labour to portray itself as the party most committed to tech-

nological change and fit to lead the country into the next century. Tony Blair has already pledged a Labour Government to work with British Telecom and the cable companies to link up every school, college and library to the Internet, to develop the University for Industry, and to develop the concept of computer libraries.

Mr Foster is to outline the millennium strategy today at a technology seminar organised by the Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union. He will not promise huge amounts of new money, but says that Labour will use existing cash more coherently, and strengthen the role of the advisory agency Taskforce 2000.

## Spice Girls head list of award nominations

The Spice Girls look set to sweep the board at this year's Brit Awards but they will share the limelight with a past success, the Bee Gees. The chart-topping newcomers have been nominated for Best British Group, Best British Newcomer, Best British Single and Best Video by a British Artist. The Bee Gees, three of whose hits have recently been the subject of cover versions, will receive the award for Outstanding Contribution to British Music.

The Britpop rivals Oasis and Blur were not among the contenders announced yesterday because they did not produce an album in time for the nominations. The comedian Ben Elton will present the awards, to be held at London's Earls Court on February 24.

## Plea for missing Zoe

The mother and stepfather of missing schoolgirl Zoe Evans, 9, made an emotional appeal for her safe return. As the search intensified in the garrison town of Warrminster, Wiltshire for Zoe, who has been missing for two days, her mother Paula Evans, 28, broke down as she begged her daughter to come home and said she had bought her the dog she had always wanted. Superintendent Colin Dixon, who is leading the search for Zoe, said that police were "very concerned".

## Peer's wife over the limit

The wife of Conservative peer Lord Wedgwood escaped a month's jail sentence yesterday when he paid her £600 fine after she spent a night in a police cell for driving her Jaguar into Eaton Square, Belgravia, while almost three times the drink-drive limit. Lady Wedgwood was banned from driving for 18 months. Police spotted her driving the wrong way along Euston Street, Belgravia. She turned left into Eaton Square, passing on the wrong side of bollards, and was stopped in nearby Bressenden Place.

## Hayes to meet party officers

The Conservative MP Jerry Hayes will tonight meet officers of his constituency association in Harlow to discuss newspaper allegations that he had an illegal relationship with a homosexual teenager. Paul Stone, Hayes's former research assistant, now 24, sold the allegations about the friendship to the *News of the World*. Mr Hayes, 43, married with two children, has denied any sexual relationship with Mr Stone and has instituted legal proceedings against the newspaper.

## Rendezvous murder theory

Police believe that Patricia Coulton, the wife of a royal protection officer who was stabbed to death in her car, had arranged a clandestine rendezvous with her murderer. Mrs Coulton, 52, was found in the grounds of a nursing home at Ascot, Berkshire, where she worked as a care assistant. Detective Superintendent Peter Hanks spent much of yesterday with her husband, Michael Coulton, 52, at his home in Woking, Surrey, but police are believed to have effectively ruled him out of their inquiries.

## Policeman supplied Ecstasy

A policeman, 32, yesterday admitted supplying Ecstasy. At Gloucester Crown Court, PC Steven Hunt of Maple Close, Hardwicke, Glos, admitted two charges of supplying MDMA — the abbreviated chemical name of the drug — to Simon Marcor on October 20, 1995. He was remanded on bail for a pre-sentence report to be prepared and his case was adjourned for three to four weeks. He denied a further charge of dishonestly handling a stolen video recorder belonging to Radio Rentals.

## Agency head is bound over

The head of a multimillion-pound Government-backed enterprise agency was yesterday bound over to keep the peace after a dispute in the street with a woman magistrate. Sefin Harris, 43, of Gloucester, manager of the Barton and Tredworth Enterprise Centre, agreed to be bound over to keep the peace for 12 months after being found not guilty by Cheltenham magistrates of using threatening words and behaviour to Carol Francis on September 6. She had denied the charge.

## Policeman's grave attacked

The grave of a policeman shot dead by the IRA last summer has been vandalised for the second time in a week. Police in the Irish Republic said yesterday that the headstone on the grave of Jerry McCabe, 52, in Mount St Oliver cemetery in Limerick, was unearthed and pushed over on Saturday night. Gardaí said they were keeping an open mind on the motive for the attack, although they thought it unlikely to be the work of the IRA. The headstone was dislodged in a similar attack the previous weekend.

## Australian wins poetry prize

The Australian Les Murray has won the 1996 T. S. Eliot Prize for the year's best collection of new poetry. Mr Murray, who was born in 1938, studied at Sydney University and became a full-time poet in 1971. His volume, *Subhuman Redneck Poems*, was selected for the £5,000 prize, which was presented last night by Eliot's widow Valerie. The poet Andrew Motion, the chairman of the judges, said: "He is a poet of exceptional range, energy and ambition."

## Mayhew resists calls to exclude fringe loyalists

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW resisted pressure yesterday to expel the fringe loyalist parties from the multi-party talks at Stormont after recent bomb attacks by loyalist terrorists.

As the talks resumed after the Christmas recess, the Northern Ireland Secretary said he did not believe that the Combined Loyalist Military Command had breached its ceasefire. His refusal to blame the loyalist command was mocked by Bob McCartney, the United Kingdom Unionist MP for North Down.

Speaking outside the talks venue, he said: "Do you think it was the tooth fairy that placed the bombs?" Referring

to so-called "punishment beatings", he added: "Do you think it was a band of tooth fairies that is breaking legs and crucifying people throughout Northern Ireland?"

Sir Patrick's praise for the Loyalist leadership followed calls from the Democratic Unionists and the UKUP for the parties with links to the terrorists to be expelled from the talks after two car bomb attacks over Christmas.

The terrorist Ulster Defence Association is widely believed to have planted the bombs under the cars of republican leaders in Belfast and Londonderry, although no group has claimed responsibility. Ronnie

Flanagan, the Chief Constable of the RUC, yesterday blamed "loyalist extremists" for planting the bombs, although he stopped short of naming any terrorist organisation.

Sir Patrick condemned the bomb attacks, but praised the loyalist command for maintaining its ceasefire. Ministers hope that the failure to claim responsibility for the bombs means that the operations were not sanctioned by the loyalist leadership.

Gary McMichael, the leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, the UDA's political wing, insisted yesterday that the ceasefire was still in place.

## Major watches drugs war

Continued from page 1

a chieftain of the Afridi tribe, who has been called the biggest drug baron in Pakistan. Mr Major was driven past Haji Ayub's fortress, which is about the size of Windsor Castle. He mysteriously gave himself up in Dubai in 1995 and is in prison in the United States.

Mr Major was planning a walkabout yesterday at the pass's high point of Landi Khotal, where the Khyber Rifles are also based. The tribesmen had been asked to hand in the guns they all carry for the day. Thousands of them had come in from the hills and lined the village as Mr Major drove through.

He was not to stop there: it was a security man's nightmare. No one could be sure who had guns. His staff were

told of how the tribesmen give their sons Kalashnikov rifles as a present when they reach the age of 13.

But Mr Major did visit Landi Khotal market centre. Mr Major and Norma were treated to a dazzling display by the young martial dancers of the Khyber Rifles. It was a colourful but bellicose experience as the dancers, who double up as waiters in the mess, fired off their Belgian FN rifles into the air and waved Scimitars. The Prime Minister was following in the path of some famous users of the pass — Genghis Khan, Alexander the Great, Darius of Persia. Churchill served in the area as a young cavalry officer: even Margaret Thatcher went there in 1981.

As he flew back by helicopter to Islamabad on the penul-

timate day of his subcontinent tour Mr Major must have reflected on the awesome task that faces the anti-drugs agencies near a country where poppy growing is the lifeblood for so many and at a frontier which is so lawless that a total of 100,000 soldiers try to police it.

After the military disaster a century and a half ago the Great Game was soon revived when the British went back to Kabul and was never really played out for another 70 years. The drugs will almost certainly go on for just as long. Imran Khan, former Test cricketer and contender for the prime ministership of Pakistan, failed to turn up for a reception hosted by Mr and Mrs Major at the British High Commission in Islamabad last night.

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'The last time I felt that shaken I was in a war zone' says journalist caught in the middle

## Publicist creates stir by lunging at MP on chatshow

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

MAX CLIFFORD, the publicist who has pledged a personal campaign to bring down the Government, lunged at a Tory MP and swore at him during a row on a television chatshow yesterday.

Chaos broke out at the Kilroy studios moments before the programme was supposed to go on air after Mr Clifford became embroiled in an argument with Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North.

Mr Clifford, a public relations consultant to many tabloid celebrities, was defending his latest client, Paul Stone, who claims to have had an affair with Jerry Hayes, the Tory MP for Harlow, when a teenager and under the then age of homosexual consent.

Members of the audience said that Mr Clifford strode out of the guest room ten minutes before the programme and glared at Mr Gale, who is chairman of the backbench media committee, and takes a strong line on intrusion into privacy.

When Mr Gale cracked a joke, Mr Clifford allegedly spat at him and tried to shove the MP, who was sitting opposite him. As Mr Clifford

lunged for Mr Gale, his microphone got caught and instead he caught Annabel Heseltine, the journalist and daughter of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Derek Hutton, the former leader of Liverpool City Council, ran over to calm Mr Clifford and said: "If you want to scrap, scrap with me. You know you don't." Boris Johnson, the journalist and prospective Tory candidate, also tried to calm Mr Clifford, along with William Garnett, a libel lawyer who is the brother of Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary. Margaret Hodge, the Labour MP for Barking, got water knocked over her in the mêlée.

Mr Clifford was clearly agitated at being faced with a largely hostile audience made up of MPs, journalists and other public relations advisers who later accused him of being a "parasite" and a "liar" in the debate about sleaze.

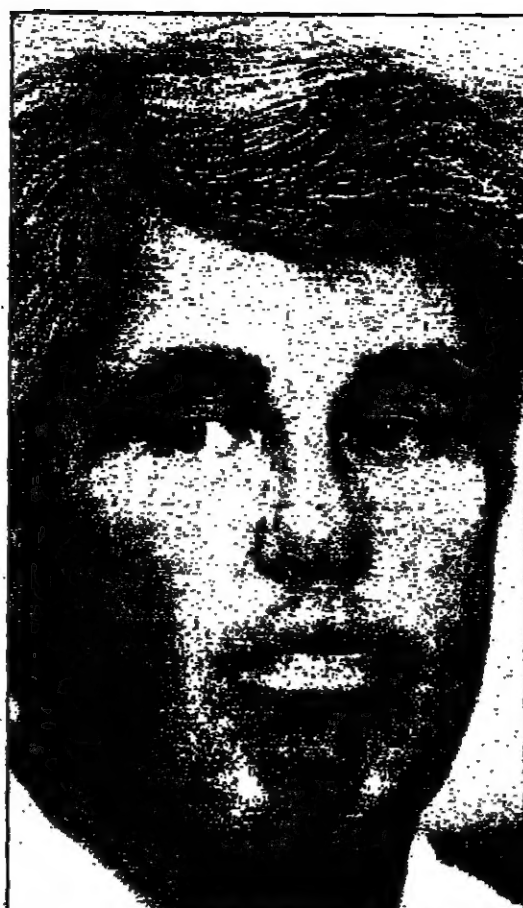
Mr Clifford's behaviour had been disgraceful, "He hurled towards me and stuck his nose about three millimetres from mine. He was out to get me," he said.

"I was really taken back by what happened this morning. But I will not be taking this any further — I am kind to dumb animals, Mr Clifford is two sandwiches short of a picnic."

Mr Clifford said he crossed the studio to confront Mr Gale, after the MP started at him, was "mouthing words and blowing kisses in his direction." He denied that he had tried to hit Mr Gale. "I've told him before I think he's utterly repulsive. There's no love lost between us. But I did not try to punch him. Gale was muttering at me. I pulled my mike off and stood in front of him eyeball to eyeball challenging to say something or shut up."

But Ms Hodge said: "They started to have fistfuffs. It took half a dozen people to restrain him. I think he completely flipped, his whole attitude was incredibly aggressive."

Mr Clifford denied coming into contact with Miss Heseltine. A BBC spokesman said the incident had been confused, making it hard to know how Miss Heseltine had come to be jostled. "It was difficult to know exactly what



Max Clifford, left; Annabel Heseltine, who got caught in the studio mêlée; and Roger Gale, who said the behaviour was disgraceful

happened or whose arm or body engaged with her," a spokesman said. "She seemed to be nursing an injury to her chest or arm."

Miss Heseltine described Mr Clifford's behaviour as an unprovoked and "uncontrolled frenzy." "I got knocked, because there were three or four men in a scuffle around me," she said. "Nobody tried to hit me."

"I didn't realise quite how

shocked I was by the incident until later. I was breathing very fast. I was shaking, my hands were shaking. Quite frankly, the last time that happened I was in a war zone. I remember feeling a little bit scared, wondering what would happen during the show, would there be someone there to hold him back if it happened again?"

Ms Heseltine, 33, added: "I feel that he is — I don't want to

say a scumbag — but he is a very unpleasant man, a very unpleasant man. What he does is extremely exploitative. He corrupts situations entirely to suit himself."

For the rest of the show Mr Clifford was obviously seething as he sparred with Mr Gale, who has been a persistent critic of the PR man.

Mr Clifford prides himself on being a caring family man who is devoted to his severely

disabled daughter and hates the Government because it does not "look after the long-term ill and disadvantaged". He is a regular church-goer.

His former clients are less clean-cut. They include O.J. Simpson, cleared of murdering his wife and her friend; and Divine Brown, the prostitute at the centre of the Hugh Grant scandal. Another of his proteges is Mandy Allwood, the woman who was pregnant with octuplets, who came under a barrage of abuse for selling her story to the tabloids.

Robert Kilroy-Silk, the former Labour MP and host, only had six minutes to defuse the situation before the programme went on air. Even half way through the programme, Mr Clifford was still calling Mr Gale "a prat".

Mr Kilroy-Silk, who has had convicted criminals and their victims on the same programme, said it had been one of the most "hair-raising" programmes. "We've done about 1,500 live shows and always expect the unexpected. But this was a very unusual one," he said.

Kathy Bailey, of Bradford, who was in the audience, said: "I was talking to my son Jason

and the next thing I knew Max Clifford had ripped off his microphone and stormed towards Roger Gale. Derek Hutton held him back. My heart was pounding and I thought the show was going to be cancelled. I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

Later during the programme Mr James Coughman, Conservative MP for Gillingham, said: "You are prepared to destroy a man and his family on the basis of allegations from someone who alleges he had some sort of relationship with Mr Hayes. I find it absolutely despicable."

One of Mr Hayes's constituents also defended him saying: "Jerry Hayes does his job. What do you do for the people of Harlow, you're nothing but a parasite. Jerry Hayes is a good MP. Who elected you?"

Mr Clifford defended his job saying: "Politicians hide behind an image and it is extremely important to see what they really are. These people are making decisions affecting our daily lives. He is part of the party of family values. Maybe his wife doesn't want to know but I happen to think the British public have a right to know about these people in power."



Derek Hutton intervenes, left, after the scuffle that left Annabel Heseltine shocked when Roger Gale was confronted by Max Clifford, who wants to bring down the Tories



## Harrods manageress convicted

By A Staff Reporter

A HARRODS manageress who helped to plunder more than £200,000 from the credit card accounts of wealthy customers was behind bars yesterday. Elizabeth John's betrayal of trust, which "horrified" the Knightsbridge store and prompted an in-depth security review, left one shopper with a £120,000 bill after only three months.

But Al Sharif Al Hussein never noticed all the itemised extras on his Gold Mastercard statements. Harrow Crown Court in north London was told it was not until police investigated the 26-month-long swindle that he learnt he had unwittingly paid for numerous illicit spending sprees.

John, 31, was convicted of one count of conspiracy to defraud between February 1993 and May 1995. She was remanded in custody for sentence on February 7.

Her brother, Koshi, 29, who admitted the charge, also had his bail withdrawn. He will be sentenced with her and for a counterfeit dollars swindle he was convicted of last year.

## Drowning son pushed lifejacket to father

By LERISSE SMITH

A TEENAGER who drowned with his young brother when their boat overturned in the Bristol Channel refused a lifejacket, pushing it instead to his father.

Paul Cyster, 18, and his brother David, 10, were on their first angling trip with their father, Stephen, 43, and his friend Dave Sperring, 59, when they tried to anchor for a last half-hour's fishing before heading home on Sunday. The anchor snagged in submerged rocks and the rapidly rising tide, which has the second highest range in the world, tipped the boat over 100 yards from the shore, near Porthcawl pier.

David was in the cabin and may have been trapped but the other three swam to the surface. "I bobbed to the surface with Paul and his dad and there were two lifejackets floating there," Mr Sperring said.

"I instinctively grabbed one. Paul pushed the other lifejacket towards his dad and said he would swim to the shore. I tried to tell him he would never make it but we

just drifted apart. It was such a brave gesture. He is a hero. Steve kept saying 'He saved my life. He gave me the lifejacket.'"

Yesterday an air and sea rescue operation failed to find any trace of the boys. Their mother, Tracey, 33, from Sea Mills, Bristol, said: "It was their first fishing trip together. We are just praying for a miracle. There is hope but it is fading." She said her husband was a keen fisherman while David loved canoeing and sports, and Paul was "a lovely lad". The couple have three other children.

The two men were rescued by a passing boat after drifting for 30 minutes in the darkness. Mr Cyster was detained in hospital but Mr Sperring, a builder, was released after treatment for hypothermia.

Mr Sperring added: "Little David had been nagging his dad for weeks to go on his first fishing trip. He was so excited when he caught the only fish of the day."

He said there was not even time to cut the rope. "We didn't have our lifejackets on. It just

all happened so fast. I tried to grab little David's legs as the boat went over but he was stuck in the cabin and I couldn't free him," he said.

The two men kept blacking out in the cold water. "We were both on the way out. I was swearing at Steve, calling him every name under the sun to stop him losing consciousness. He was delirious. All I can surmise is that Paul tried to swim to shore which was about 100 metres away. If it had been in the summer and it had not been so cold, he might have made it."

Rescuers admitted yesterday any hopes of finding the two boys alive were slim. Helicopters, six lifeboats and local boats searched the area on Sunday and the hunt resumed at first light yesterday with a team scouring both shores and police divers trying to locate the wreck.

Coastguards said visibility was good but the cold water, around 4C, meant the boys would be unlikely to survive for more than three hours. They believed they were swept away by strong currents.

## Rector stole from his parishioners

By A Staff Reporter

A RECTOR stole thousands of pounds paid by parishioners for weddings and funerals and made up heart-breaking stories about local children to get money from a church fund.

Oxford Crown Court was told yesterday that the Rev John Thompson also cheated an insurance company by claiming his 12th-century church, St Olave, in Fritwell, Oxfordshire, had been burgled, and stole money from a school of which he was a trustee.

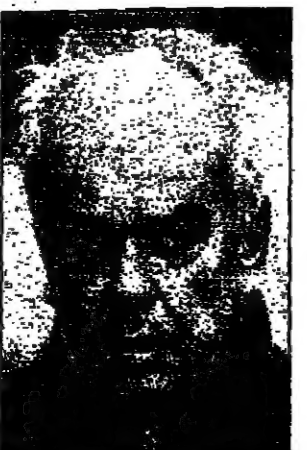
Peter Nightingale, for the prosecution, said that the Bitchington Convalescent Fund paid out £2,000 over 15 months for holidays for children after Thompson sent it bogus letters. They included one in which he told of a father who had died in a fall as he tried to rescue his

children while climbing in the Lake District. Another asked for money for two children who were seriously injured when a caravan plunged off a cliff in France, killing their father.

Mr Nightingale said that on each occasion the charity sent cheques to Thompson to help towards the cost of holidays for the children.

Mr Nightingale said: "This defendant was a successful, effective liar with a fertile imagination. None of these people were parishioners, relatives or even known to Mr Thompson. They were all completely fabricated. No one else had benefited."

The court was told that he cheated the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company into paying out £1,200 after claiming that burglars had broken into his



Thompson: resigned from his parish

church. The "stolen" items were later found at his home. Thompson, 52 and a vicar for 20 years, had been the rector serving three parishes in east Oxfordshire — Fritwell, Souldern and Ardley with Fewcott — for ten years.

Thompson admitted four charges of obtaining property by deception and asked for two thefts, a charge of fraud involving the insurance company and an offence of attempting to obtain property by deception to be considered. He was ordered to do 100 hours community service, placed on probation for two years and ordered to pay back the £2,000 from the convalescent fund.

Jonathan Coode, for Thompson, said he was undergoing psychiatric help after a breakdown and that there was no substance to the claims that he was the only one to benefit. "There seems to be a witch hunt going on."

He has resigned from his parish but will hopefully not be defrocked. His working life is effectively over, which is the greatest punishment."

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## Islamic extremists blamed after terror campaign spreads from America to Britain

## Two wounded as letter bombers aim for London target

BY STEPHEN FARRELL AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

ISLAMIC extremists were last night believed to be behind a letter-bomb attack that injured two security guards at London-based moderate Arab newspaper. Two similar devices were sent to the paper's office in the United Nations building in New York.

The Saudi-owned *al-Hayat* has voiced support for the Middle East peace process and recently spoke out against extremism. Two weeks ago, its

Washington bureau received explosives hidden inside musical Christmas cards. Identical bombs were sent to the parole office of the US prison holding one of the Arab terrorists who carried out the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing.

Last night Britain's anti-terrorist police were understood to be in contact with FBI officers investigating the American attacks. The Saudi ambassador to London, Dr

Ghazi Alghosabi, said: "Those who cannot face ideas resort to bombs. This is a criminal, cowardly act which illustrates the mentality of the perpetrators." *Al-Hayat*, a Arabic-language daily with 165,000 sales worldwide, is owned by the Saudi Prince Khalid Bin Sultan. More than 90 per cent of the 100 staff working at the Kensington Centre office in Hammersmith are Lebanese.

The editor, Jihad Khazen, said he believed the bombs were the same type as those received two weeks ago, which bore stamps and postmarks from Alexandria, Egypt. Security was tightened after the Washington attack, with a scanning machine installed in the basement post room.

One security guard, Barry Roche, 46, from Paddington, suffered serious injuries to the head and abdomen in yesterday's blast. Doctors at New Charing Cross Hospital last night feared that he might lose an eye. A second guard, Andy McKenzie, 35, from Wimbledon, suffered burst eardrums and shock but was released from hospital.

The Metropolitan Police anti-terrorist squad and bomb disposal units evacuated the building in Hammersmith

Centre of the news: a journalist from the newspaper *al-Hayat* talks to police after the bombing yesterday

Road shortly after the first blast at 9.15am. They sealed off roads and carried out controlled explosions on three suspicious packages before sending material to forensic laboratories for closer examination.

A Scotland Yard spokesman refused to confirm reports that the device contained Semtex, and that the guard escaped with his life only because the detonator exploded.

Mr Khazen said: "We don't know if the guard opened it or what happened. It made a noise going through the machine, he carried it in his hands and it blew up."

Police were last night seeking links with the US attacks on January 3 in which *al-Hayat's* Washington bureau received four bombs, with a fifth discovered at the sorting bureau before it was delivered. All were in plain white envelopes measuring 5½ ins by 6½ ins. They were defused safely after the first was opened by the paper's Wash-

ington correspondent Dana Sandarusi, who became suspicious after seeing the Egyptian stamps and called police when he noticed wiring and plastic explosives inside.

Three others were sent to the parole officer at Fort Leavenworth Federal Prison in Kansas, where Mohammed Salameh is serving a life sentence for the World Trade Centre bombing in which six people died and 1,000 were injured. The prison also holds the blind Egyptian cleric

Shelkh Omar Abdel Rahman, ringleader of a Middle Eastern group, who was sentenced a year ago for plotting to bomb buildings and tunnels in Manhattan and kidnap politicians.

Mr Khazen said: "We were the only Arab newspaper to interview all the people convicted of the World Trade Centre bombing, including Salameh. We have also spoken to Shelkh Omar Abdel Rahman twice, and we have had absolutely no complaints from any of the groups."

A statement from the school said the investigation arose from complaints made by two parents concerning children other than their own. One parent had since removed her children, while the other had one child still at the school. "The children who were the focus of the inquiry are also still happily in the school and they and their parents have always been fully supportive of the care and attention the school provides."

Another parent, who declined to be named, said she was not satisfied and would be removing her daughter at the end of the school year.

## Parent to stand by school sex allegation

BY JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

A MOTHER who made allegations of sexual impropriety against a senior teacher at Wells Cathedral School in Somerset stood by her account last night despite threats of legal action.

Two teachers were cleared last week after a three-month police inquiry. John Baxter, the headmaster, said yesterday that the allegations had been investigated thoroughly when they first came to light more than a year ago.

But Annie Caldwell-Bull, whose two daughters left the school in July, claimed she had seen one of the teachers cuddling a young girl and that her ten-year-old daughter Minty had also had her bottom pinched in horseplay with the same member of staff.

Mrs Caldwell-Bull had complained originally when her 12-year-old daughter Candida told her she could not concentrate on her piano practice because the teacher had another girl on his knee, kissing and cuddling him. "I expected to be thanked for bringing it to the school's attention but instead I got an aggressive response and now, even after the girls have left, the threat of legal action."

Mr Baxter said the school had received hundreds of expressions of support. "I am absolutely certain and totally confident of the good care and welfare of all the children in my school."

Mr Baxter said the school was still waiting for a full police report, but it had been assured that the allegations had "no substance".

A statement from the school said the investigation arose from complaints made by two parents concerning children other than their own. One parent had since removed her children, while the other had one child still at the school. "The children who were the focus of the inquiry are also still happily in the school and they and their parents have always been fully supportive of the care and attention the school provides."

Another parent, who declined to be named, said she was not satisfied and would be removing her daughter at the end of the school year.

## HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

LONDON has seen violence involving the complex politics of the Middle East since 1977, when a former Yemeni prime minister, his wife and a diplomat were shot dead.

Since then, nearly 30 people have been killed in attacks as political developments in the Middle East have been played out in the capital. A former prime minister of Libya was shot down in 1978. The London representative of the PLO was killed a few months later. In 1980, four gunmen and two hostages were killed in siege of the Iranian Embassy. In 1982 the Israeli ambassador to Britain was killed by a gunman. Two years later, WPC Yvonne Fletcher was shot from inside the Libyan People's Bureau. In 1995, a group of Palestinians left car bombs outside the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish charity, and a Libyan dissident was stabbed to death.

The tolerant and cosmopolitan capital has attracted dissidents — and their persecutors. Attacks on newspapers and journalists are not new. In 1987, a Palestinian cartoonist was killed.

## Hard-hitting and reliable daily refuses to be intimidated

THE SPATE of letter bombs sent to the offices of the Arabic-language daily *al-Hayat* in London, New York and Riyadh over the past two weeks suggests a co-ordinated terror campaign by Islamic radicals against the Arab world's leading newspaper.

Edited and published in London, the paper, owned by the Saudi Royal Family, is a natural target for Islamic fundamentalists and those who have opposed its strong line against terrorism and oppression.

Yesterday it emerged that an employee of the paper's office in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, also received a letter bomb on January 4. Alerted by the Egyptian stamps, he called the police, who discovered

that it contained explosives. The paper is owned by Prince Khalid bin Sultan, the nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the commander of the Saudi forces during the Gulf War. His father is the country's powerful Defence Minister.

With a circulation of 165,000, *al-Hayat* is the successor to a long-standing Beirut newspaper forced out of the country during the Lebanese civil war. Still largely staffed by Lebanese, it is considered one of the most hard-hitting and reliable Arabic-language dailies, with correspondents in most of the Arab world. It publishes much news that is censored by local newspapers, and takes full advantage

*The Arabic-language newspaper Al-Hayat, owned by the Saudi Royal Family, is a natural target for Islamic fundamentalists. Michael Binyon writes*

of the press freedom and Arabic language news sources and outlets in London.

Edited by Jihad al-Khazen, the paper is transmitted by satellite to printing presses around the Arab world and is considered one of the most authoritative because of its relatively unbiased coverage. Mr al-Khazen frequently receives telephone threats from the Arab world and attempts by governments to prevent publication of embarrass-

ing news, but he says he will not be intimidated. "I hope and pray there will be no more attacks. We will not change. We will maintain our moderate position on Arab and international affairs," he said.

Terrorist experts pointed to Egyptian Islamic radicals as being the most likely perpetrators. Activists in Egypt have promised revenge for the imprisonment of Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, the blind Egyptian cleric described as the ring-leader

of the group sentenced a year ago for plotting to bomb buildings and tunnels in Manhattan and kidnap American politicians. Muhammad Salameh is serving a life sentence in America for his role in the plot.

Speculation also focused on groups that have waged political and terrorist campaigns against Saudi Arabia. Among these are the shadowy group responsible for the bombings in Riyadh and Dhahran last year that killed 25 people, including 19 American soldiers in the second blast. Islamist enemies of the House of Saud also include Osama bin Laden, a rich Saudi exile who has funded some of the most radical anti-Western terrorist groups and who is now believed to

be living in Afghanistan.

Dr Muhammad al-Masari, the Saudi dissident exile in London who recently announced that he was bankrupt, said after the first Washington bombing that the list of suspects could not exclude Islamicists, and cited their dislike of Mr al-Khazen in particular for his "insolence". He said the paper's offices in Cairo and London would be an obvious target.

*Al-Hayat* has been used by the radical Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA) to claim responsibility for terrorist bombings and assassinations. But suggestions that the letter bombs could be connected to the Algerian conflict were regarded as unlikely.

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## Boy wins fight for home after hate campaign

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged 11 won the legal right to be rehoused yesterday after the High Court was told that he and his family had been the victims of a hate campaign on the inner-city estate where they live.

The court was told that Simon Bradford had been constantly bullied and taunted on his way to school by neighbours on the estate because his mother was crippled by arthritis and epilepsy. Richard Gordon, QC, appearing for Simon, said the words "while trash" had been daubed on the front door of the family's two-bedroom, first-floor flat.

In his judgment, Mr Justice Kay described how the whole family faced a daily ordeal "of very considerable harassment" and Simon's mother had been mugged on three occasions. He said Simon's head teacher described him as "a sad little boy".

"The family has been harassed by abusive and hoax telephone calls," he said. "This campaign of hatred has culminated in attempted arson on their home and the daubing of phlegm and faeces over the door of their flat and their car."

In its landmark judgment the court ruled that the Tower Hamlets Council in east London had a legal duty to find a safer home for the boy, who had helped to look after his severely crippled mother since he was four. The case will set an important precedent for hundreds of other children in need or who are responsible for the care of older relatives.

The Bradfords first made an urgent application for a housing transfer in July 1995, but the council assessed that they had no points for medical priority so they were placed on the general housing list.

The court heard that Simon suffered from behavioural problems and had missed a large part of his schooling, partly because he had assisted his unemployed father Raymond, 46, in caring for his

mother and partly because of the harassment. The council told the family that their needs, including psychological ones, did not justify providing them with residential care and that the only type of accommodation they were entitled to was under the 1948 National Assistance Act.

Events of the summer of 1996, when the harassment suffered by the family escalated, "only served to underline how acute a problem it was".

The judge said that, as the case was coming to court, the council conceded that it did have powers under the Children Act to accommodate a child in need, but then argued that Simon had failed to meet the criteria which would qualify him for rehousing.

The council claimed his family's needs were being met through the housing department and they were being offered help in the home. The judge ruled that because the council had conceded it did have powers to house a child in need, the family were clearly entitled to an assessment of Simon's needs.

The judge said he believed the council had failed to carry out an assessment because those responsible "approached it with a fundamental misunderstanding of their powers in relation to rehousing under the Children Act."

Simon's solicitor Nicola Mackintosh said later: "This is an horrific story, but it is also an important case for the rights of children generally."

"It is of great relevance for children with disabled parents, or children who are in need themselves. There are many families in similar situations to Simon's."

However his local council said they had nowhere suitable to place the family and they will at present have to go on living in the flat where they have been harassed. Simon's mother, Anita, said: "As adults we can more easily stand the strain. But for Simon it has been unbearable."

## Family blames beds crisis for woman's death

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

A WOMAN aged 69 died after a London hospital cancelled her heart bypass operation four times because of a lack of intensive care beds over the Christmas holiday.

The family of Queenie Harriid said yesterday that others would suffer a similar fate unless the Government provided the health service with more resources.

Amid growing attempts by the Opposition to put the NHS crisis back on top of the political agenda, both Liberal Democrat and Labour MPs demanded that Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, come to the Commons to make a statement.

Mrs Harriid, from Downham in Kent, was admitted to Guy's Hospital on December 13. Her family claimed that she was prepared for operations on December 23 and 24, and January 2 and 3 but each time it was cancelled. She died of a heart attack on January 4, two days before the fifth scheduled date for her operation.

Her son, David Harriid, told a press conference in Westminster that if she had not had her hopes lifted and then dashed four times, she would still be alive. Mr Harriid, 31, a music shop manager, said: "We feel it is mental cruelty to the patients to have to go through this torture of constant build-ups and let-downs."

He said his mother's death was purely a result of funding cutbacks yesterday. Mrs Harriid's husband, Bill, said the family wanted to make the story public to prevent future tragedies.

Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman, said he would be asking the hospital for a full inquiry.

Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust disputed the number of times that Mrs Harriid's operations were cancelled. Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Trust said Mrs Harriid had had her operation cancelled three times as a result of the bed shortages.

One of four NHS hospital beds has been kept in the past six years, Labour said yesterday. Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, said the reduction in beds since the NHS reforms were introduced was a reason for the current crisis.

□ The £10,000 grant received by Alice Oswald (article, January 10) came from the Arts Foundation and not, as reported, the Arts Council.  
 □ An obituary, yesterday wrongly described Lord Borthwick as the 23rd Earl of Borthwick; he was in fact the 23rd Baron.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY JANUARY 14 1997

# Queen to share golden wedding with 4,000 couples

By ALAN HAMILTON



The royal couple by Snowden, a portrait released today

THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary later this year by hosting a garden party at Buckingham Palace for 4,000 other couples who also married in 1947 and are still together.

But unlike other garden parties, which are heralded by a stud through the letterbox of a stiff and finely-printed invitation from the Lord Chamberlain, on this occasion would-be guests will have to apply for tickets, and their names will be entered in a ballot.

The Palace said yesterday that more than 100,000 marriages had taken place in 1947, when even Princess Elizabeth had to count her clothing ration coupons for her wedding dress, but that many of

those would have died or divorced. The royal couple married in Westminster Abbey on November 20, at the height of postwar austerity, but will hold their garden party on the palace lawn on July 15, when the weather is more likely to favour an outdoor event.

Because no central record exists of couples who have survived half a century together, the Palace has had to resort to the unregal approach of inviting bids. But it is no worse than the system for sending congratulatory telegrams to centenarians: the Queen has to be told of an approaching 100th birthday before she can send her message.

Couples who wish to take iced coffee and cucumber sandwiches at the Palace are being asked to the register with the office of the Lord Lieutenant of the county in which

they live. The Palace has promised that the eventual distribution of invitations will be on a pro rata basis in line with the number of applications received from each county.

Ballots will be held locally "to achieve the fairest possible spread throughout the country". Eligibility is limited to couples of British nationality. Nationals of other Commonwealth countries that have the Queen as head of state — as of this year, as opposed to 1947 when the marriage took place — should apply through their High Commission in London, the Palace said.

Applicants are asked to make contact by February 14 and to send copies of their marriage certificates as proof. Children and grandchildren are not invited, but may be allowed if needed as carers.

"It was thought this would be an

ideal way of enabling the Queen and the Duke to share this personal anniversary with others who equally share this landmark during 1997," the Palace said. "The garden party will give the Queen and the Duke an opportunity to meet people from a wide range of life experiences."

Those invited, like guests at any royal garden party, will have to pay their own way to London. They will not have to afford morning dress; a lounge suit will do for the men, but no lady has yet attended a royal garden party without incurring the expense of a hat.

"Most ladies choose to wear a hat, though it isn't absolutely mandatory," the Palace added. "If people want to wear tails it is a matter for them."

The afternoon in the Queen's private grounds, with tea served

after the royal couple walk through the crowds, is likely to prove the most memorable event of the year for most of those attending.

Ten days before the garden party, three times as many people are expected to attend another celebration, the independently organised Royal Pageant of the Horse. Designed to reflect the royal couple's best-known shared interest, it is described as the largest equestrian event ever held in Britain.

About 25,000 people will pay £40 or more to watch more than 1,200 horses and carriages in a spectacular display at Windsor Great Park.

Other commemorations include a crown coin (with a face value of 25p but costing £5) to be struck by the Royal Mint, and Britain's first gold stamps, to be sold from April 21, the Queen's 71st birthday.

## Prince joins school homework campaign

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales yesterday backed the campaign for more rigorous school homework when he spoke to educationists at a conference in Edinburgh organised by his charity The Prince's Trust.

The journey north of the Borders made the Prince the first member of the Royal Family to visit Scotland since the televised debate on the monarchy last week in which 52 per cent of Scots voted in a phone-in poll to scrap the monarchy, with only 44 per cent in favour.

Speaking on the importance of homework for pupils, a subject taken up at the weekend by Tony Blair, the Prince told his audience: "The uncomfortable truth is that too many of our young people end up under-achieving at school... Too many of them do not learn the joys of learning... The lost potential for society as a whole is depressingly large."

The Prince's Trust has been involved in study support for five years. There are more than 300 study support centres across the country, which include after-school, homework clubs, teaching assistants

New York: The Duchess of York was in Los Angeles yesterday to make a television advertisement for a low-calorie drink (Quentin Letts writes). The Duchess received an undisclosed amount for endorsing the Ocean Spray juice, which her spokesman said was a "cranberry like" flavour. According to one report, her fee is \$1.5 million (nearly £1 million). The commercial is to be shown for the first time next Monday on American television. It is unlikely to be aired in Britain.

sessions and summer schools. Last year 42,000 young people benefited from study support, 42,000 of whom were in Scotland.

"We very much hope to be helping 1,000 study support centres by the millennium," the Prince said.

Earlier the Prince had listened to Fiona Robertson, 17, a pupil at Ballisluke Academy in Scotland. She spoke about her after-school

study support group in which senior pupils help to tutor younger pupils. She urged teachers to give more responsibility to their pupils. "You are all control freaks," she told her audience. "How can you expect to produce responsible pupils if you don't give them a bit of responsibility?"

Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, will announce the Government's homework plans this morning.

After the monarchy debate Buckingham Palace officials have let it be known that an initiative was under way to recapture Scottish hearts. But the views of a small crowd that had gathered in the Royal Mile by the end of the Prince's visit were mixed.

George McLeod, 71, said: "I think it is good to see Prince Charles here because it shows he has an interest in Scotland. I don't think it's fair to say at the moment if he would be a good king. He's obviously done a few bad things but then haven't we all?"

Gordon Muir, 46, said: "As a person, I think Prince Charles is all right... But on the monarchy, I really have to say I don't want them."



Diana, Princess of Wales, with flowers presented to her on arrival in Luanda

## Princess wastes no time after arrival in Angola

By ALAN HAMILTON

DIANA, Princess of Wales, arrived in Angola yesterday to publicise a campaign to rid the war-ravaged and desperately poor African state of its 12 million landmines.

Looking tired at the end of an 11-hour flight, she nevertheless got straight down to business on the tarmac of the airport at Luanda, the Angolan capital, by making a statement to reporters and Angolan officials.

She said: "By visiting Angola we shall gain an understanding of the plight of the victims of landmines and how survivors are helped to recover from their injuries. We will also be able to observe the wider implications of these devastating weapons on the life of this country as a whole. It is my sincere hope that by working together in the next few days we shall focus attention on this vital but now largely neglected issue. So let's get on."

The Princess has agreed to lend her support to a Red Cross campaign for a worldwide ban on landmines, despite severing her connections

with the charity six months ago.

Angola is the most heavily mined war zone in the world after Cambodia. The country has 70,000 amputees, victims of the mines, and many thousands more unknown to the authorities. During her visit, the Princess will don body armour and be conducted through a narrow corridor cleared in a minefield.

She was met at the airport by Venancio de Moura, the Angolan Foreign Minister, met Franca van Duren, the Prime Minister, and last night dined with the wife of President dos Santos.

After a shower and change of clothes at the British Ambassador's residence, where she is staying, the Princess went to a briefing with Red Cross officials at the charity's Angolan headquarters in Luanda. She took notes and asked several questions, including whether landmine victims were treated for psychological trauma.

Fears for peace, page 13  
Leading article, page 21



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# Bishop condemns society for loss of childish innocence

By Russell Jenkins

THE newly enthroned Bishop of Chester has condemned modern-day Britain as forcing children to grow up too quickly, in a culture where pop stars are let off with a caution for drug offences and people are obsessed with the sexual misdemeanours of others.

The Rt Rev Peter Forster, 47, who has four children, said that the institution of marriage was in danger and he called for "more disciplined sexual behaviour". He launched his moral crusade two days after he was enthroned as the Church of England's youngest bishop.

He expressed deep concern for Kayleigh Ward, the nine-year-old missing from her home in Chester since before Christmas. "Children cease to be children so quickly these days," he said. "They are exposed to many temptations."

Four weeks ago Kayleigh went missing from a council temporary hostel where she lived with her mother and two sisters. The child, said by police to be streetwise, disappeared after she went to buy a bag of chips.

Dr Forster emphasised that he did not want to pass judgment on the girl's situation, acknowledging that "being a parent today is a hard business". But he attacked permissiveness, contrasting the plight of young children

The Rt Rev David Sheppard, the Bishop of Liverpool, 67, intends to fulfil his full diary of engagements this year before he retires. It was disclosed yesterday. A former England cricketer, during his 22 years in the city he worked with the late Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Derek Worlock, to forge closer links between the Anglican and Catholic churches. Yesterday the Rev Paul Dawson, his chaplain, said Mr Sheppard would not be attending the 1998 Lambeth Conference as bishop, but there would not be an immediate announcement of his retirement. "No captain declares an innings before he has discussed it with his team," Mr Dawson said.

such as Kayleigh with the way Liam Gallagher, lead singer of the pop group Oasis, was let off with a caution for possession of cocaine. He said the decision struck him as odd.

He said: "The desire for a quick fix is an underlying problem of our culture. The Pill and the sexual revolution may have brought some benefits but they also created problems. There is a need for more disciplined sexual behaviour in our society: heterosexual and homosexual." Dr

Forster, whose children are aged between 2 and 17, served as senior tutor at St John's College, Durham, and was vicar of Beverley Minster, in east Yorkshire. He believes he is the only bishop to have worked as a dustman — a holiday job when he was a student reading chemistry at Oxford University.

He spoke of his concern for the moral state of Britain in his enthronement sermon, in which he talked about the rising suicide rate, crime and the breakup of families. Yesterday Dr Forster reiterated the theme of the family in danger.

"We have been in danger of losing the more noble vision of marriage and what it is to bind ourselves to another person for life," he said.

"Marriage is for better or for worse. When marrying couples in the past I have always used the analogy of marriage and war. When our soldiers went off to fight in 1939 the cause was right and they did not go out for a trial period.

"At the moment we have an obsession with sexual misdemeanours in our culture which is unhealthy and reflects the free-for-all that has been going on in sexual relationships. Prudishness is produced as a reaction and this is unhealthy, as is the sort of prudence that exists now. A better outlook will flourish if we can establish a vision of the nobility of relationships."

## Hand that soothes the patient's fevered brow is ageing rapidly

NURSES are getting older as fewer join the profession and more are nearing retirement (Jeremy Laurance writes). Fewer than one in five nurses is now under 30 compared with more than a quarter in 1990, according to figures published yesterday by the UK Central Council on Nursing and Midwifery.

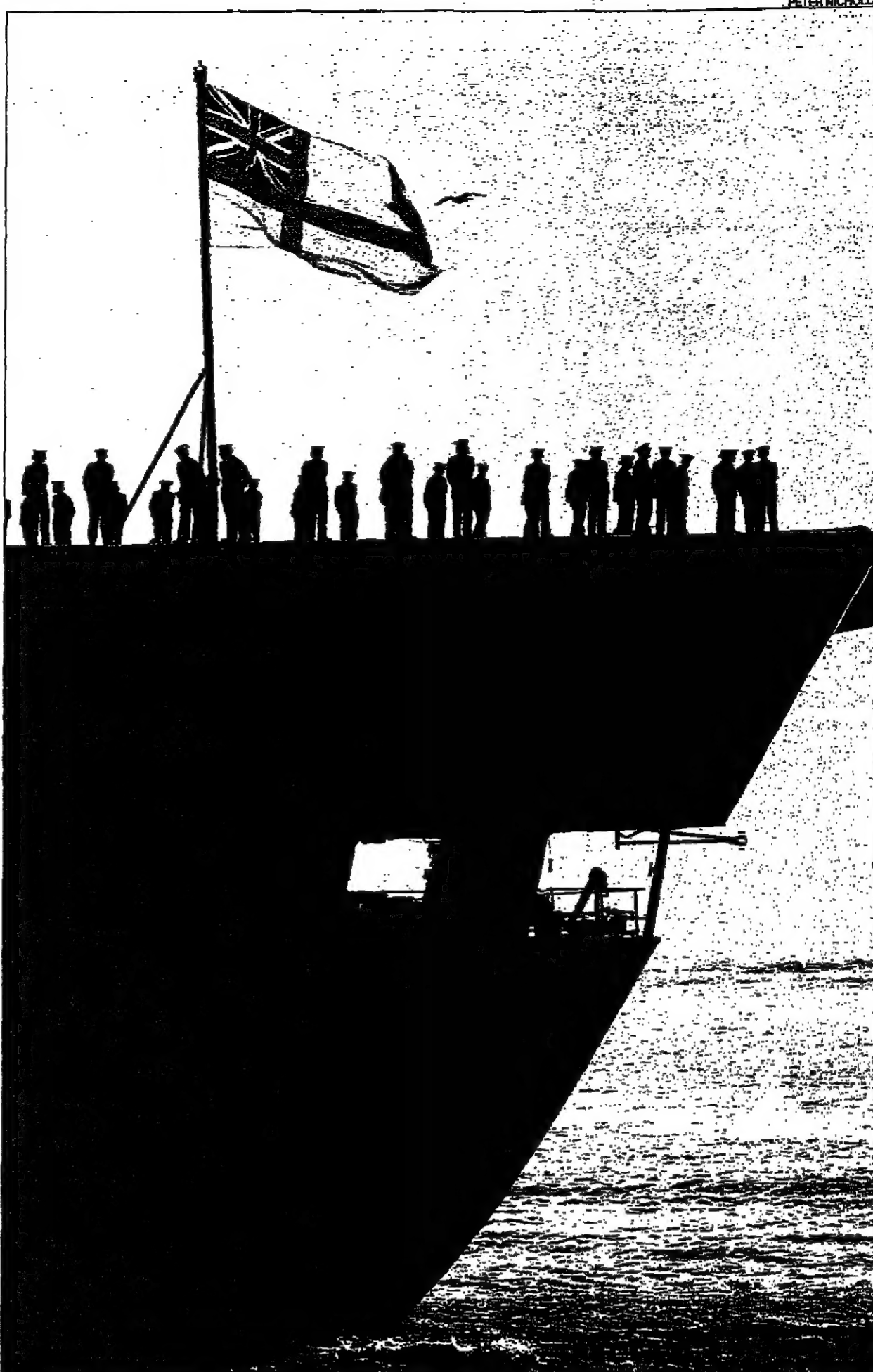
The explosion in higher education was blamed by the council for luring students from nursing. "Anyone with

half a brain can get to university and get a degree now. People who might have gone into nursing a decade or more ago may now be attracted by vocational courses," a spokesman said.

The Royal College of Nursing said the NHS was facing its worst shortage of nurses for ten years. It issued a list of 34 hospitals in England and Wales that have reported difficulty in filling posts. More than 20 per cent of nurses are

aged 50 or over and a retirement bulge is expected to cause further shortages.

The college said that the number of students joining nursing courses fell by 39 per cent between 1987-88 and 1994-95. Although the number of places has been increased by 14 per cent this year, these will not feed through into the workforce until the next century. "We have been saying for years that places should not be cut," the RCN said.



Leading a task force of 21 ships and 7,500 men: the crew of HMS Illustrious leaving Britain for 7½ months

## Navy gets in trim for Far East handover

By Lynn Jenkins

THE aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious weighed anchor at Portsmouth yesterday to lead the biggest deployment of Royal Navy ships since the Gulf War. The show of strength in the Asia Pacific region will coincide with the handover of Hong Kong to China.

More than 7,500 men and 21 ships will be involved in operation Ocean Wave 97, visiting 24 countries and taking part in 26 exercises during the next 7½ months. Nicholas Soames, Armed Forces Minister, said it was essential to show commitment to the region.

"Britain has huge interests in the Asia Pacific region — commercial, political and strategic," he said. "This shows our concern for the stability and health of that part of the world. It will show Britain's determination to remain a player on the world stage."

He dismissed as "folish idiotic speculation" that the operation was also a show of strength to China at the handover of Hong Kong, or an insurance policy should events not run to plan. "The orderly and smooth handover of the Hong Kong garrison will continue, and there is no reason to believe there will be anything difficult whatever."

The Royal Yacht Britannia embarks next Monday alongside Ocean Wave for her last overseas deployment. In her most ambitious commercial programme she will visit nations including Pakistan, India, Malaysia and Thailand, as well as being joined by two ships from the task group for the handover of Hong Kong in August. The group of 21 replacement ships will be replaced in turn.

Fleet training will include amphibious landings, jungle training, operating in very hot weather and co-operation with forces from Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

Rear Admiral Alan West, commander of the UK task group, said the "ambitious deployment supports the commitment in the area and shows military might in a region where you only need to look at Korea to see there is instability."

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# Astronomer discovers cast of stars hidden in Hamlet



Shakespeare knew of the rival viewpoints

THERE is more of heaven and earth in *Hamlet* than has been dreamt of in anyone's philosophy, an American astronomer claimed yesterday. Shakespeare was not only tackling human issues such as revenge, madness and the point of existence, but he was also taking a wide look at the size of the universe and whether the planets orbit the Earth or the Sun.

The 1601 drama is full of references to rivaling between two theories of the cosmos. Professor Peter Usher of Pennsylvania State University said. The Bard championed the view that won.

Delegates at the American Astronomical Society's meeting in Toronto were told: "*Hamlet* is an allegory for the competition between Thomas Digges of England and Tycho Brahe of Denmark." In 1576, Digges, an English scientist and scholar, published his *Perfit Description*, in

■ Shakespeare was hailed yesterday for championing an English scientist's view of the universe against something rotten from the state of Denmark. Nigel Hawkes, science editor, reports.

which he took up the Sun-centred view of Copernicus, and suggested that the stars we see are like the Sun, and distributed through infinite space. At the end of the century, Giordano Bruno was martyred for publishing similar ideas.

Shakespeare knew Digges. Professor Usher says, and through him knew also of the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, whose cosmology was Earth-centred and believed the solar system was embedded in a spherical shell of stars. "When *Hamlet* states: 'I could be bounded in a nutshell and

count myself a king of infinite space' he is contrasting the shell of fixed stars in the Ptolemaic and Tycho models with the Infinite Universe of Digges," Professor Usher said.

"Claudius is named for Claudius Ptolemy, who perfected the geocentric model. Claudius personifies Tycho Brahe, whose cosmology was Earth-centred. The latter are sunnioned by Claudius because the position of the King is threatened by young Hamlet, who personifies the Infinite Universe." Thus, when

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are killed: so are Tycho's ideas, and when Claudius is killed, it signals the end of geocentrism. "The chief climax of the play is the return of Fortinbras from Poland and his salute to the ambassadors of England. Here Shakespeare signifies the triumph of the Copernican model and its Diggesian corollary," Copernicus was a Pole.

Prince Hamlet is a student at Wittenberg, a centre of Copernican learning but when he announces a desire to return to his studies there, the King demurs, saying: "It is most retrograde to our desire." This, Professor Usher says, was a play on the word retrograde, which is when the stars appear to move backwards. Explaining it was a "problem for Earth-centred cosmologies," Hamlet's madness is linked to his support for Digges, the gravediggers assert-

ing that in England "the men are as mad as he". If that is right, Professor Usher says, then *Hamlet* "evinces a scientific cosmology no less magnificent than its literary and scientific counterparts".

Two groups of American astronomers reported the strongest evidence yet for the existence of black holes, the final outcome of collapsed stars whose dense cores suck in all nearby matter. A team from the University of Michigan used data from the Hubble space telescope to identify three new black holes. They believe a black hole exists at the centre of nearly every galaxy. A second team, from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, studied pairs of stars where one is pulling gas away from the other, and found four where the energy simply disappears — a "strong indication" of a black hole.



Copernicus' symbolic triumph in the climax

## Widow 'acted on husband's wish for baby'

By Emma Wilkins

DIANE BLOOD was honouring her late husband's wishes to have a child by seeking to use sperm taken from him before he died, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, for Mrs Blood, said that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority had been wrong to deny her permission to use the sperm, taken as Stephen Blood lay dying of bacterial meningitis. "Mrs Blood is clearly honouring the wishes of herself and Stephen. They had discussed the very situation which tragically later arose," he told the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, sitting with Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Henry.

Before Mr Blood became ill in March 1995, the couple, who were desperate to have a child, read a magazine article about a case similar to that which later transpired, and agreed that Mrs Blood could use his sperm in the event of his sudden death. Mr Blood fell into a coma and died before he was able to sign a form giving his explicit written consent.

The High Court ruled last year that the authority had been within its rights to refuse Mrs Blood permission to use the sperm in Britain or abroad

because she did not have his written consent. After reviewing the case, the authority upheld the ban, in November.

It had been wrong to refuse permission for Mrs Blood to take the sperm abroad where she could be treated at a Belgian clinic, Lord Lester told the court. The authority had also been wrong in refusing to look beyond the lack of written permission and examine the details of the case. "Had he [Mr Blood] been conscious when he was dying, there is no doubt that he would have signed a written consent."

The 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act insists that written consent be given in cases of posthumous use of sperm but does not regulate cases where married couples are receiving joint fertility treatment.

Lord Lester told the court that Mr and Mrs Blood were embarking on a joint enterprise to have a child. Mr Blood's death did not mean that the joint enterprise had ended.

Mrs Blood, from Worsop, Nottinghamshire, was accompanied by her parents, Brian and Sheila McMahon at the hearing yesterday.

The hearing continues today.



Diane Blood arriving at court to hear her appeal over using her late husband's sperm

## Health authorities 'ration abortions by ability to pay'

By Jeremy Laurence, Health Correspondent

WOMEN seeking abortions are being secretly divided by their GP into the rich who can afford private treatment and the poor who need NHS care, a pro-abortion charity claims today.

The Abortion Law Reform Association found that health authorities are rationing the number of NHS abortions available, forcing GPs to choose which women should be referred to private clinics and which should be given an NHS appointment.

Some health authorities require women to answer questions about their financial status, such as whether they are on income support or have an outstanding summons for debt, before they will grant an NHS abortion.

One authority raised the age limit for NHS abortions from 16 to 21 because it found students were requesting the operation "and they did not have the financial wherewithal to have a private termination".

A survey of all 108 health authorities in England and Wales carried out by the charity found that the percentage of abortions on the health

service varied from more than 90 per cent to fewer than 50 per cent, depending on the funding provided.

In subsequent interviews with 19 authorities, all denied that women were asked directly about their willingness or ability to pay for the termination.

However, they admitted that not all abortions could be paid for on the NHS and emphasised that they tried to help the "needy".

Several authorities said that, although it was unethical within the NHS to suggest that a woman should pay, it was acceptable to point out that she could wait several weeks for an NHS abortion or go almost immediately to a private clinic.

Jane Roe, manager of the association, said: "It is rationing by the back door, without the women's knowledge and without the public's knowledge."

"It is being left to the personal judgment of GPs and pregnancy counsellors. We hadn't realised until we conducted the survey that it was so endemic."

Mrs Roe said doctors with a

conscientious objection to abortion had blocked access to NHS treatment for years. The survey showed that in north-west Lancashire, a Catholic area, only 28 per cent of abortions were carried out on the NHS; this was the lowest proportion in the country. Southall, at 41 per cent, was also low.

In Scotland, almost all abortions were performed within the health service and in 19 health authorities in England and Wales the figure was above 90 per cent.

Mrs Roe said: "We were shocked by the widespread use of means testing, although all health authorities denied that they were actually doing that."

"But they were quite happy to admit that they sorted out the 'needy' to make sure they were offered free treatment whilst those who could afford to pay were steered towards a fee-paying clinic. GPs or pregnancy counsellors were expected to assess who was able to pay."

Decisions were sometimes based on "moral judgments rather than health need," Mrs Roe said.

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## Photographer on steroid therapy hanged himself

By Adrian Lee

THE society photographer Terence Donovan hanged himself after the drugs that he was taking for a chronic skin complaint made him depressed, his widow told an inquest yesterday.

Diana Donovan said that her husband had suffered from eczema for many years and turned to steroids because other treatments had failed.

Mr Donovan, 60, whose subjects included Diana, Princess of Wales, and the Duchess of York, was found dead in his studio in Ealing, west London, last November after failing to arrive for an assignment.

Mrs Donovan said she had noticed a change in her husband's temperament after he began the course of steroids.

"He had suffered from chronic eczema for years and had seen various doctors. During the course of steroid treatment he seemed to become very depressed. The depression had been a recent thing. The change in temperament started after he had steroid treatment."

Mr Donovan had also been prescribed sleeping pills and

broke a doctor's appointment on the day of his death. Mr Donovan's wife of 26 years, who works at a hospice, said that her husband told her he was not going to keep the doctor's appointment. Mrs Donovan said: "When I asked him why he wasn't going he said: 'Don't worry! Then he said he was going to work for a short while but he didn't come back'."

Mrs Donovan contacted the family doctor when her husband failed to arrive for the photo-shoot because he had never missed one before, and the GP advised her to call the police.

Mr Donovan, the son of an East End lorry driver and a black belt in judo, had two sons and a daughter. In the 1960s he photographed numerous celebrities including the model Jean Shrimpton and the actress Julie Christie. He was a non smoker and teetotal.

Dr John Burton, the Fulham Coroner, said: "He had been treated with steroids for chronic eczema and become depressed. I have to record that he took his own life."

## Phil Spector fights to get back first big hit

PHIL SPECTOR, the legendary American record producer, launched a High Court action yesterday over the rights to his debut hit *To Know Him is to Love Him* (Michael Horsnell writes).

He is fighting to recover his copyright interest in the million-selling single, which was first recorded by the Teddy Bears, and for hundreds of thousands of pounds in back royalties.

Mr Justice Ferris said the song failed to "ring any bells" with him, but was offered the opportunity of taking a CD away from court with him to refresh his memory. The song reached the top of the American charts in 1958 and

made number two in the British charts the next year. In the Teddy Bears' recording Mr Spector had played virtually every musical instrument but the drums.

The action by Mr Spector, who wrote the song when he was 18, is against British-based Bourne Music Ltd. Mr Spector claims that an initial 28-year copyright assignment under American law, in which rights were transferred to the publishers Warman Music and a licence granted to Bourne, expired in 1986 and that Bourne has no more rights in respect of the song. Bourne refuses to accept that it no longer has rights. The case continues.

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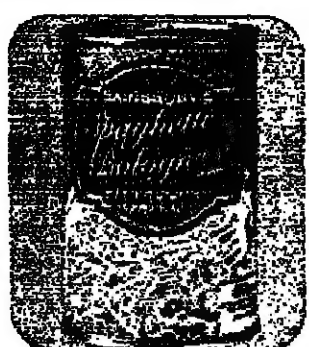
We are asking owners to contact us so we can modify the set. This will be done free of charge and at a time that is convenient for you.

You should unplug and not use the set until you have contacted the number below for full safety instructions. Owners should contact our Customer Services Department 0541 541 841 or by post at Mastercare, Department 1424, Maylands Avenue, Harnet Hempstead HP2 7TG.

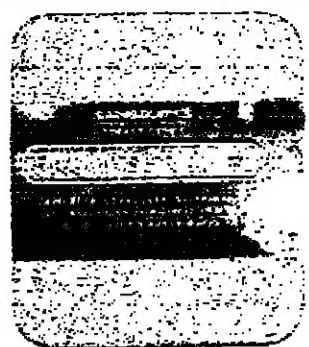




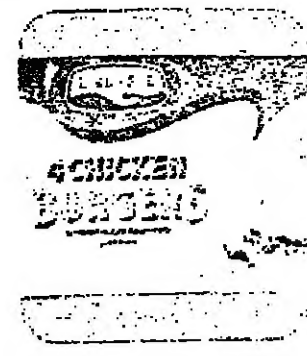
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Birds Eye Frozen  
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x4 pack £1.39  
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Sainsbury's  
Fabric Conditioner  
4 litres £2.45  
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Wilkinson Sword  
Shaving Gel 200ml  
£1.89  
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40 POINTS**



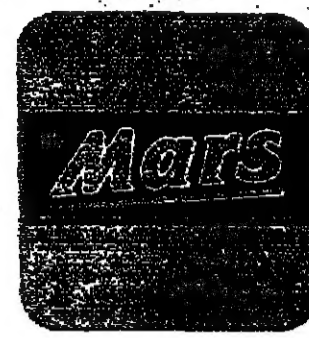
Sainsbury's  
Low Fat Fruit Fools  
113g 48p  
**BUY 2 GET  
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Canderel  
Tablets x 500  
£4.99  
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Del Monte  
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Mars  
x14 pack  
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Napolina Chopped  
Tomatoes with herbs/  
onion and herbs  
400g 42p  
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Aristoc  
Ultra 10 Tights  
£2.25  
**BUY 1 GET  
75 POINTS**



Sainsbury's  
Coffeeplus 500g  
£1.39  
**BUY 1 GET  
40 POINTS**



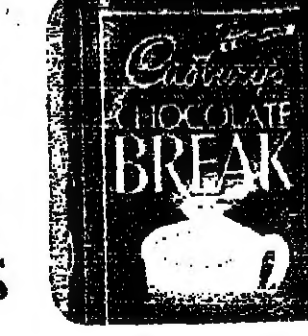
Finish  
Dishwashing Tablets  
x40 pack £5.79  
**BUY 1 GET  
130 POINTS**



Sainsbury's  
Sweetcorn 510g  
65p  
**BUY 2 GET  
35 POINTS**



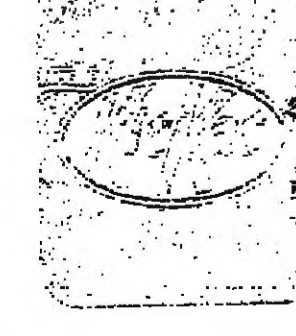
John Smith's Bitter  
4x440ml pack  
£3.39  
**BUY 2 GET  
200 POINTS**



Cadbury's  
Chocolate Break  
400g  
£1.99  
**BUY 2 GET  
100 POINTS**



Heinz Weight  
Watchers Baked  
Beans 420g  
33p  
**BUY 2 GET  
25 POINTS**



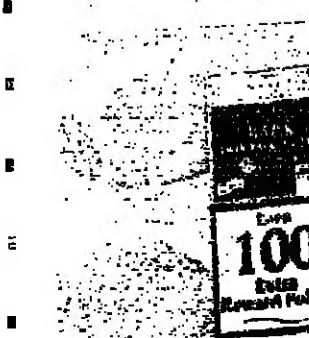
Kit Kat  
4 Finger x 8 pack  
£1.69  
**BUY 2 GET  
80 POINTS**



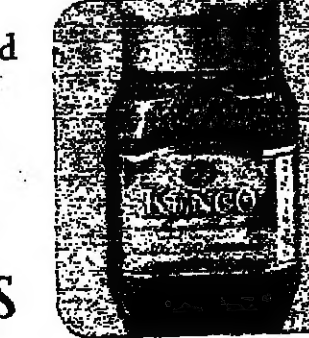
Timotei Shampoo/  
Conditioner 200ml  
£1.39  
**BUY 1 GET  
50 POINTS**



Kellogg's  
Hot Krumbly 600g  
£1.59  
**BUY 2 GET  
80 POINTS**



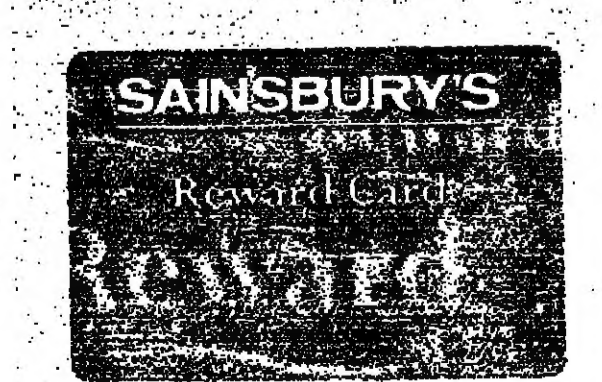
Danish Unsmoked  
Rindless Bacon  
Twin Pack 500g  
£3.29  
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Kenco Superior  
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# Shell considers new roles for redundant Brent Spar



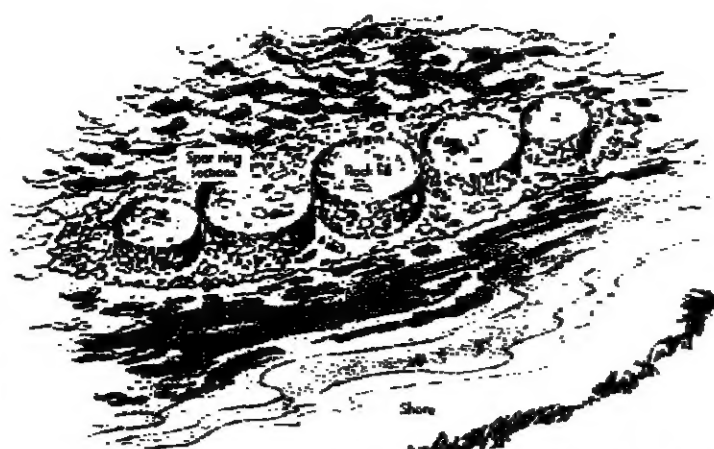
Plans to dump the Brent Spar were blocked in 1995

By Nick Nuttall  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SHELL yesterday ruled out dumping the Brent Spar oil platform at sea and announced a shortlist of proposals for its future, including scrapping it on shore, using it for coastal defences or as a training centre, and turning it into a harbour gate.

In the summer of 1995 Greenpeace successfully campaigned against plans to sink the Brent Spar in the Atlantic. Its activists occupied the platform and Shell was boycotted on the Continent. After backing down under intense pressure, Shell apologised to the Government, which had backed its plans.

The shortlist of proposals from six groups for the 14,500 tonne buoy has been arrived at from a list of 30 ideas, including turning it into a floating casino, a Blackpool tourist attraction, and an electricity



Among shortlisted proposals for the Brent Spar are using it in a coastal protection scheme, and turning it into a training centre

generator with windmills. Those ideas have been scrapped in favour of more modest schemes which, Shell insists, would be cost effective and environmentally friendly.

Eric Faulds, Shell Expro's de-commissioning manager, said: "The proposals now to be developed represent the best of those we were offered, while also maintaining a good range of potential solutions. This is an exciting com-

petition and still wide open. We genuinely do not know what the eventual solution will be.

"All the ideas require the Spar to be first raised from the water. Overcoming its structural limita-

The final proposals include an Anglo-French bid by McAlpine Doris JV to raise and rotate the buoy using compressed natural gas to turn the hull into a quay extension.

Wood-GMC, in an Anglo-Norwegian bid, suggests jacking the buoy in half and using the top as a training centre and the bottom as a quay extension.

Kvaerner Stolt Seaway Alliance, in a Norwegian-Dutch bid, also claims that the top half could be used as an onshore training facility. Both groups claim that there are companies in Norway that are keen to acquire part of the Brent Spar for that purpose.

AMEC, of Britain, is suggesting using cleaned sections of the hull as part of the Environment Agency's coastal protection programme for the East Anglian coast. The hull sections of the buoy, sliced up into hoops, would stabilise the core of the defence.

## Bullimore treated for frostbite but in 'terrific condition'

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN FREMANTLE

TONY BULLIMORE underwent surgery to save a badly frostbitten finger last night after a joyful reunion with his wife Lalei.

"I always knew the old bulldog would come home," she said shortly after stepping off a flight from London.

The yachtsman, who had spent four days in the hull of his upturned yacht in the freezing waters of the Southern Ocean, replied: "You're either a survivor or you're not a survivor."

The Bullimores hugged and kissed when they met in the British consul's residence in Perth. Mr Bullimore told his wife: "Careful, don't stand on my feet," referring to the frostbite that has affected them. He was then taken for treatment in a decompression chamber.

Doctors said he and Thierry Dubois, the Frenchman who was also picked up by HMAS Adelaide last week, were extremely fit considering their ordeal. Dr Harry Ower said: "I think they are in terrific condition. They are incredibly cheerful, they're great." He

said the aim of the recompression treatment was to reduce the swelling in Mr Bullimore's feet. "It will get more oxygen to the nerve endings and tissues in the blood vessels so the normal healing process is helped."

Earlier Mr Bullimore, 56, had returned to a hero's welcome as thousands of people crowded onto the quayside at Fremantle to catch a glimpse of the Briton, who has vowed to continue solo round-the-world sailing.

"I have got one or two projects in my mind," he disclosed at a press conference. "The fact is that sailing is one of the things I do in life. The simple answer is that I am going to keep going until I can't go anymore."

Asked if he thought he was pushing his luck, Mr Bullimore replied with an emphatic "No".

Pressed about race rules that allow yachtsmen to sail so far into the Southern Ocean, he said he was preparing a list of recommendations to the organisers of the Vendée Globe challenge in France but

was reluctant to make drastic changes. "It would be easy to chip off all the difficult bits," he said. "But it's like saying you can't go up the north face of the Eiger in mountaineering. You have to achieve a balance."

Casting an eye over the thousands who had turned out to welcome him, Mr Bullimore said: "I'm absolutely astonished. It's unbelievable." Of his ordeal, he said: "I really thought I'd bought my ticket this time. If it wasn't for the professionalism, the dedication, the inbuilt spirit of Australians, I am positive I would not be here now."

Admitting at this point that he was "slightly emotional", he added: "All I'm going to say is thank you to everybody on the Adelaide and thank you Australia for giving me my life back."

M Dubois, 29, also paid tribute to the ship and aircraft crews involved in the rescue but denied the two were heroes. "I don't like a lot of the word hero. We are not heroes. I think Australia have a lot of heroes on this ship and in the aircraft that saved us," he said.

Later, asked whether he might need trauma counselling after his experience, Mr Bullimore said he would much prefer a beer. "You work it out for yourself, what would you sooner do? Go and have a beer down the pub or be counselled?"

The yachtsman, whose survival story is attracting big commercial interest from newspapers, television, and film studios, added before shuffling into a waiting ambulance: "It doesn't take much to work that one out, does it?"



Tony Bullimore is helped into an ambulance by his wife, Lalei, yesterday after a medical examination in Perth

## Few beers the best course for recovery

THE dismissive approach of Tony Bullimore to the benefits of immediate counselling after a harrowing experience is in accord with modern teaching. As one would expect from a man of his temperament, Mr Bullimore opted for a few pints with the lads as a means of overcoming any post-traumatic stress disorder.

Any event that is completely outside a person's normal experience, particularly if it is life threatening or endangers their family, their house or possessions, can induce post-traumatic stress disorder. Nothing could be further from a person's normal life-style than having to prepare an upturned yacht in the South Atlantic as one's tomb.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is always precipitated by some dramatic happening but its effect on an individual depends on their vulnerability. The great majority of people are able, like Mr Bullimore, to withstand the most appalling disasters, and their psyche is so strong that after a few good nights' sleep they are back to their normal selves.

Mr Bullimore shows every evidence of having a personality far stronger than most and one that could withstand situations that would give most people nightmares for life. Evidence is now accumulat-

ing that once any of the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder surface, the sooner treatment is instigated the more likely the condition is to respond to treatment. Conversely, there is also evidence that if counselling is made widely available to people who have no symptoms, the very symptoms it is designed to alleviate may be precipitated. It seems that ill-advised counselling may well awaken a demon that might otherwise have lain dormant.

People who are going to develop post-traumatic stress disorder may also find it difficult to sleep and to concentrate and they tend to suffer such symptoms as sweating and tremulousness. For the time being, Mr Bullimore should stick to his beer drinking and enjoy his reunion with his family. If, in time, he finds that his sleep is disturbed, and that he can no longer chat to his wife about the "daily round and trivial task", he should then seek to see a counsellor.

Mr Bullimore will have to watch out for recurrent nightmares and he and his wife will have to take note as to whether he is unusually sensitive, cross and irritable, has lost interest in his usual pleasures, or feels detached from strangers and incapable of displaying the love and affection that he used to dispense.

People who are going to develop post-traumatic stress disorder may also find it difficult to sleep and to concentrate and they tend to suffer such symptoms as sweating and tremulousness. For the time being, Mr Bullimore should stick to his beer drinking and enjoy his reunion with his family. If, in time, he finds that his sleep is disturbed, and that he can no longer chat to his wife about the "daily round and trivial task", he should then seek to see a counsellor.



Dr Thomas Stuttard



Thousands of people turned out in Fremantle to see the rescued yachtsmen arriving on HMAS Adelaide

## Newly identified breed of rhino is most at risk of extinction

By Nick Nuttall

SCIENTISTS have discovered that a small group of hairy rhinoceroses living in Borneo are genetically unique and constitute a distinct subspecies of the creature. It makes the Bornean rhino the most critically endangered on the globe.

Some researchers believe as few as 25 of these elusive animals live in the wild. The scientists fear that the subspecies may be lost if it is allowed to breed with its nearest kin. Professor Don Melnick, an evolutionary genet-

cist of Columbia University, a member of the team, said yesterday that cross-breeding with Sumatran rhinos increased the risk that the offspring would have reduced fertility and be ill-suited for the wild. He called for the Bornean animals to be swiftly moved into a tropical forest reserve.

The genetic studies into the rhinos of Borneo have been carried out by Professor Melnick and researchers including Dr Patrick Mahedi Andau, director of the Wildlife Department of the state of Sabah, where the last confirmed sightings of these animals

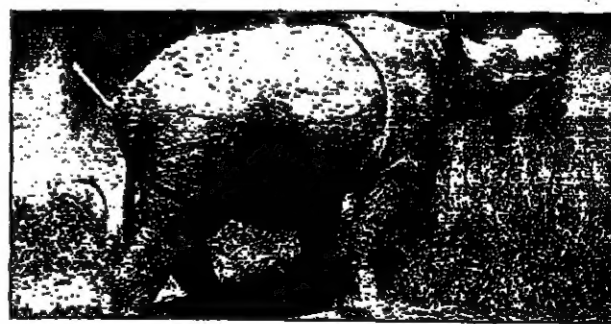
have been made. The findings are published today in the journal *Conservation Biology*.

The Columbia University scientist discovered in 1989 that several subspecies of African black rhino are so close genetically that they can be interbred to increase that species' chance of survival. But the genetic differences between the Sumatran rhino, of which there are estimated to be between 200 and 300 animals, and the Borneo breed are too significant to make this sensible, the scientists claim.

The Bornean rhinos are slightly

smaller than their Sumatran cousins and they produce quite shaggy coats when held in captivity.

More than a million Sumatran and Borneo rhinos, the oldest surviving group of rhinos, once roamed South-East Asia in the mid-19th century. Small creatures with a distinctive double horn, the numbers have been dramatically reduced by poaching, development, logging of their tropical forest homes and booming human populations. They have proved difficult to breed in captivity because they need semi-natural conditions.



The Bornean rhino is smaller than the Sumatran, above

### Hero pays price

PC Stuart Mackenzie, 49, who won the Queen's Gallantry Medal for his part in the capture in 1975 of the kidnapper and murderer Donald Neilson, is retiring because of defective hearing caused by a shotgun blast during the arrest at Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire.

### Boy dies on M66

Stephen Crawshaw, ten, of Bury, Greater Manchester, was killed after he stopped to pick up his prized baseball cap which fell off as he and a group of friends ran across the M66 near Bury. Police said it appeared that the children were using the motorway as a shortcut.

### Royal gun sale

A shotgun given to the future Edward VIII in 1899 when he was the five-year-old Duke of York is expected to fetch up to £50,000 when it is auctioned at Sotheby's on February 19. The 360 hammer gun, by James Purdey & Sons, is about one third the normal length and engraved with a crowned E.

### Dead sorry

The Royal Mail apologised to Gordon Thornton, 72, and his wife Christine, 65, after their post arrived by hearse. Their postman drove the vehicle and was using it for deliveries on a busy day in Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham. He was delivering a letter from the couple's cardio-vascular surgeon.

### PC sues joyrider

PC Craig Langley, 42, whose police career in Birmingham was ended by neck injuries when his squad car struck a lamp post during a chase, launched a High Court test case for compensation against Kirk James Dray, the "joyrider" he was pursuing. The hearing continues.

### Bouncer broke

### MP's nose

### PC sues joyrider

### Dead sorry

### Royal gun sale

### Boy dies on M66

### Hero pays price

## New Year. New Technology. Old price.



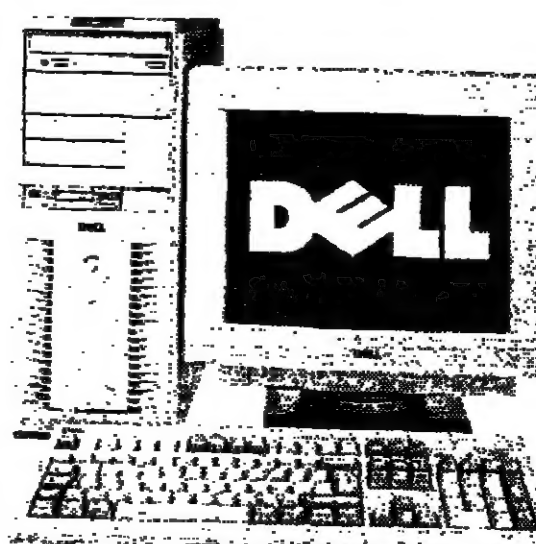
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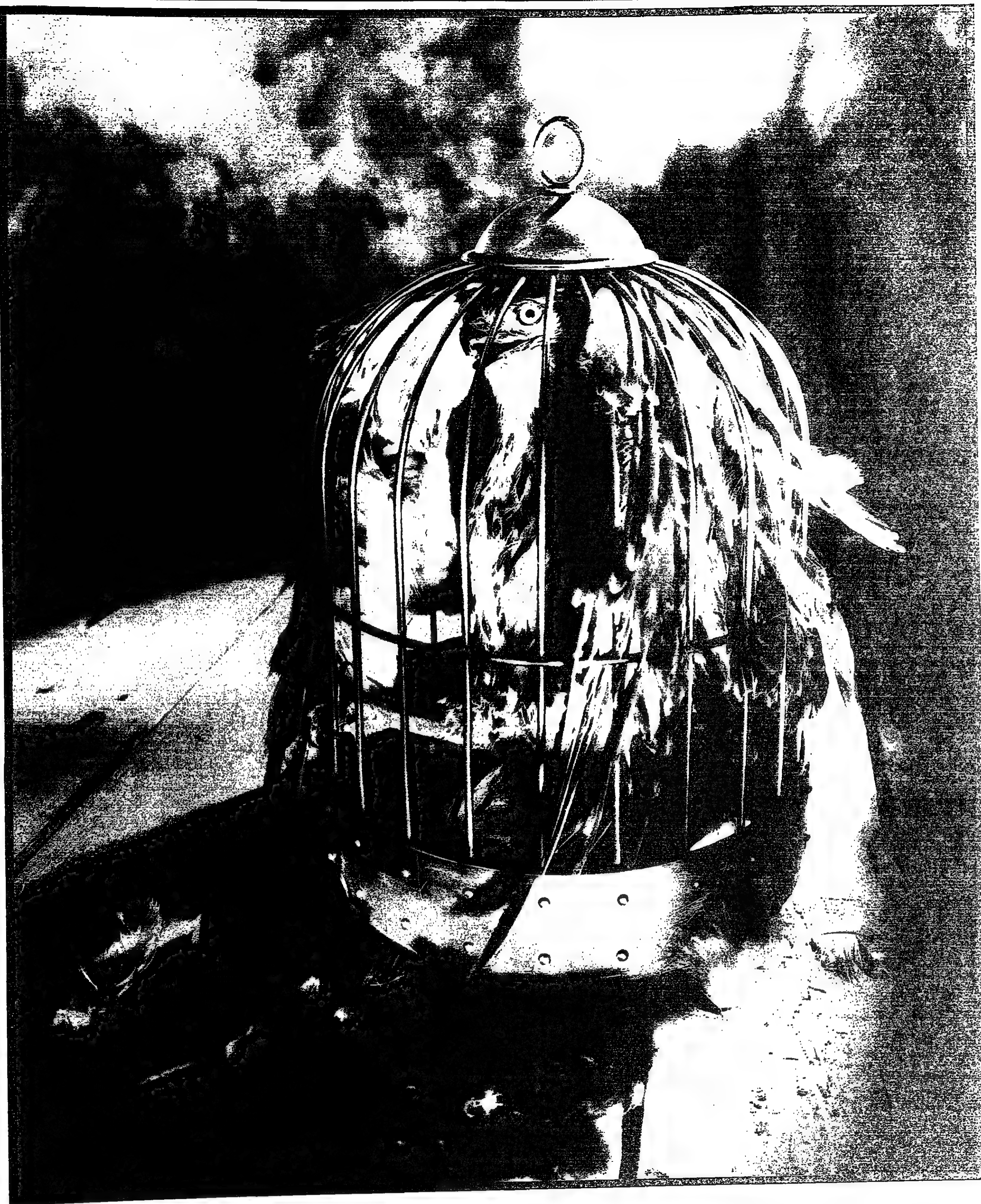
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VIP'S



## How long can Government policy go on restricting our growth?

The Government claims that it believes in free trade and open competition. So far as international air travel is concerned, the reality is very different.

Manchester Airport's ability to grow is being stunted by red tape in the form of archaic regulations dating back to 1947, which were introduced essentially for military reasons, and before the introduction of passenger jets. These regulations - called bilateral agreements - require that before an airline can start a new service between 2 countries an international treaty between the respective Governments is required.

In today's highly competitive market place these rules are an utter

irrelevance to Manchester and other regional airports. Other Governments recognise this and pursue an Open Skies policy to the benefit of their airports and countries.

Major competitor airports like Singapore and Amsterdam therefore attract additional routes without getting snarled up in inter-governmental politics. By contrast, Manchester is constrained by a regulatory process which impedes and deters international airlines from starting new services.

The impact on the regional economy and on employment is enormous. An independent firm of analysts, York Consulting, have estimated that the

introduction of an Open Skies policy would create in the order of 10,000 jobs in the North West between now and 2005.

An IATA passenger survey has found Manchester to be the 'World's Best Airport'. Many airlines want to start up routes to and from Manchester, allowing more passengers to fly directly to their chosen destinations, and creating jobs here rather than exporting them. The Government can unilaterally declare 'Open Skies' over Manchester and other regional airports and support the creation of jobs and passenger choice.

There is no good reason why the Government should not act now. It must!







## Israeli hardliners launch bid to halt Hebron pact

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI hardliners yesterday launched a campaign in the Cabinet and the Knesset to prevent Israeli troops withdrawing from Hebron after Sunday's breakthrough in negotiations engineered by King Hussein of Jordan.

As Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met in a Jerusalem hotel to finalise an agreement for Israeli troops to leave most of the disputed city immediately, and 80 per cent of the occupied West Bank by mid-1998, Jewish settlers called a series of meetings.

Leaders of the 450 Jews living in the heart of Hebron and the 130,000 in the wider West Bank — and they regard as Israel's biblical heritage — accused the right-wing Government of Benjamin Netanyahu of betrayal.

They vowed to target individual ministers in his 18-member Cabinet to persuade them to reject the Jordanian-brokered compromise.

Last night the hardliners claimed that at least seven ministers were prepared to vote against the deal and that at least three others were wavering.

Cabinet approval is not legally required, but it would be difficult for Mr Netanyahu — the former political darling of the settler community — to proceed without a Cabinet majority. Intense lobbying was also taking place in the

corridors of the 120-seat Knesset, which has to approve any deal.

Ehud Barak, the former Labour Defence Minister and chief contender to lead Labour in the next election, said the new deal was worse from an Israeli point of view than that negotiated in 1995 by the previous Labour Government.

Political commentators said that steering any deal through the Cabinet and parliament would confront Mr Netanyahu, 47, Israel's first directly elected Prime Minister, with the most serious challenge of his turbulent eight months at the helm. Among influential ministers on record as opposing the Hebron deal in its present form is Ariel Sharon, the former war hero.

The agreement is liable to create an extremely severe and dangerous situation here," said Noam Arnon, a spokesman for the militant Hebron settlers who live among 120,000 hostile Palestinians. Tension in the city was high after reports of King Hussein's eleventh-hour initiative, and two petrol bombs were thrown at an Israeli vehicle.

At a stormy "emergency meeting" of the Yesha Council, which represents settlers in the whole of the West Bank, there were calls for mass civil disobedience and political moves to find a replacement Prime Minister for Mr

Netanyahu. Outside the hotel where the deal was being drafted, a group of Israeli right-wingers waved black flags and held up signs, including one that read: "Hebron deal spells end of Zionism."

As night fell, Israel radio reported Palestinian negotiators were claiming that Israel was trying to alter nine points in the compromise agreement. Among outstanding points still not agreed were a timetable for the release of Palestinian prisoners and security arrangements for the new Palestinian airport in Gaza.

In the Knesset, Michael Kleiner, a right-wing deputy, described the Hebron deal as "a trap set by Yasser Arafat" for Mr Netanyahu. The National Religious Party, an important part of the ruling coalition, was quick to decide at an angry meeting that its nine Knesset members would vote against the pact.



Altar boys lead Hong Kong judges to St John's Cathedral yesterday during the ceremonial opening of the 1997 legal year, the last under colonial rule (Jonathan Mirsky writes). The judges and lawyers paraded in full traditional dress — with wigs, pantaloons, silk ties and colourful robes — in what is the

## Hong Kong big wigs on parade

colony's cold season. Many residents don heavy winter coats in temperatures that rarely fall below 60F (15C). It is not yet known whether the rubric "One Country, Two Systems", which underpins the 1984 British-

Chinese treaty, will include the continuance of the full sartorial legal panoply, in which the wigs alone, created at London's Ede & Ravenscroft, cost almost £1,600. That decision will be made by the

new Chief Justice, yet to be named by Tung Chee-hwa, the first Chief Executive.

More serious is a shortage of judges. Fifteen of the high court judges will be eligible for retirement before the July 1 handover.

Law, page 43

## Pressure mounts on Savimbi to join peace effort

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THABO MBEKI, South Africa's Deputy President, flew to Angola yesterday in an attempt to save the faltering peace process and prevent a return to civil war when the United Nations peacekeeping force pulls out next month.

Last week President Mandela met Jonas Savimbi, leader of Unita, the former rebel group, to urge him to join a government of national unity. Dr Savimbi signed the 1994 Lusaka ceasefire, but has refused to take part in the Government, fearing that he and his followers would be killed in Luanda, the capital and stronghold of the left-wing MPLA administration of President dos Santos.

Mr Mbeki briefed President dos Santos yesterday on the talks, which he said were "very fruitful". Dr Savimbi had previously refused to meet Mr Mandela in South Africa, his former backer and arms supplier. Mr Mbeki insisted South Africa would not take the part of the United Nations, America, Russia and Portugal as mediators, who are trying to broker agreement before the scheduled formation of a government of national reconciliation on January 23. Francisco Pedro, a former exile

who formed the Democratic National Union of Angola in 1994 to fight government corruption, is urging the 6,600-strong UN force to prolong its stay until elections have been held.

However, in an interview with *The Times* he was pessimistic that the Government would agree to a ballot. He said that, although political parties were allowed to operate under the Lusaka agreement, the Government controlled access to the media. He also accused President dos Santos and the Government of massive corruption — an allegation also made by aid agencies and international observers.

Britain has also urged reconciliation between the former warring parties. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, had talks in Luanda last week with President dos Santos, other government leaders and Unita representatives.

Aid agencies are giving warnings that unless the two sides begin to co-operate, there could be a return to war. More than 300,000 people died in renewed fighting that followed the breakdown of the last peace agreement and Dr Savimbi's repudiation of the 1992 elections.

Seventy Unita members of parliament elected in 1992 are finally due to take their seats in the next few days, having missed the deadline last week. On the military front, part of the Unita fighting force began joining the Angolan Army last week, as called for in the Lusaka agreement.

Of the 65,000 troops it mobilised during the civil war, 23,000 are to be absorbed into the Angolan Army. Two thousand former guerrillas have already joined up.

Leading article, page 21

## South Africa seeks to outlaw dogs of war

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

LEGISLATION to outlaw the recruiting of mercenaries in South Africa, and to stop local companies setting up offshore subsidiaries to provide military and intelligence know-how to other countries, is to be drafted urgently by the Pretoria Government.

Kader Asmal, chairman of the Conventional Arms Control Committee, a parliamentary body, said yesterday that it had noted with concern reports that South Africans were involved in a mercenary build-up in the Great Lakes area of eastern Zaire.

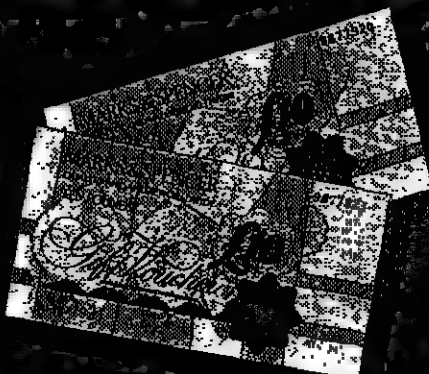
South Africans who operated in Angola and, more recently, in Sierra Leone are

said to be joining a 500-strong force — dubbed the "white legion" — gathering at Kisan-gani. Mercenaries are believed to be signing contracts worth £3,000 to £8,600 a month with the Zairian Government and gold and diamond mining companies, including the British-based firm Branch Energy.

Executive Outcomes, the world's largest private military advisory firm, is based in Pretoria. Eben Barlow, its chairman, has denied it is involved in Zaire.

Mr Asmal said yesterday that the Government wanted its legislation enacted by the middle of the year.

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# New front opens in German war with Hollywood

## Film plot links Bundesbank with Nazi scheme to restore Hitler's domination

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A NEW front has opened in the war of words between Hollywood and the Germans. This time, the enemy fire comes not from glowering big box-office champions of Scientology, but from producers determined to depict the Bundesbank and pro-European politicians as the secret heirs to Hitler.

"Hollywood film defames Germany," read the banner headline in the mass circulation *Bild* newspaper. The conservative *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* settled for the tamer headline "World and madness".

The new source of German angst is a film in production based on the novel *The Day After Tomorrow* (Little, Brown & Co), by Allan Folsom, a scriptwriter. The thriller — which has also been translated into German — describes a conspiracy between the head of the Bundesbank, politicians and businessmen.

Their aim is to restore National Socialism under the cover of advocating a federal Europe. The climax is in the Swiss Alps, where the Bundesbank and other evil Teutons try to transplant Hit-

ler's head — rescued from his Berlin bunker — on to a living body. "It all sounds grotesque," writes Frank Schirrmacher, the influential *Frankfurter* commentator, "and one becomes nauseous at the thought that very successful books always reveal something of the collective unconscious."

The German outrage follows hard on the heels of the Scientology affair — an open letter to Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, signed by 34 Hollywood names such as Dustin



Folsom: said to have already made £2m

Hoffman and Goldie Hawn. The letter, published last week, compared the German treatment of Scientologists — who are not recognised as an official religion in Germany and who have been excluded from some public service jobs — with the marginalisation of the Jews in the 1930s.

Herr Schirrmacher said the letter "showed what happens when you view the world with the eyes of a thriller and film-writer. The Holocaust becomes nothing more than a story." The same criticism applied to the Folsom book and its conversion into a film.

Germans have long been unhappy about their portrayal by Hollywood. German officers are either stupid (*The Goose Steps Out*, *The Great Escape*); sadistic (*To Also Die*, *The Night of the Generals*); treacherous (*Lifeboat*); or fanatical (*49th Parallel*). As Germany came to be recognised as one of Europe's biggest markets for Hollywood films, so a slightly more subtle approach crept in. The 1982 film *Escape to Victory*, which combined ethnic and football clichés, managed against all odds to portray a



Evil has landed: Michael Caine as a German, left, Laurence Olivier in *Marathon Man* and Peter O'Toole in *The Night of the Generals*

fair-minded German officer (played by Max von Sydow, a Swede), pitted against insensitive Nazi colleagues.

Another feature of the Hollywood Nazi was that he was frequently played by an Englishman. This is partly because Englishmen are thought to sneer better (Peter O'Toole in *The Night of the Generals*), and partly because they are less offensive to European (and indeed Ger-

man) cinema-goers. Thus, Michael Caine played the doomed paratrooper officer in *The Eagle Has Landed*. Robert Shaw the doomed tank commander in *The Battle of the Bulge*, Laurence Olivier the dastardly dentist in *Marathon Man* and Paul Scofield the mad (and of course doomed) villain in *The Train* *Escape*.

The Germans put up with this for decades but hoped for

a sea change after Liam Neeson played the lead in *Schindler's List* — a kind of German war hero. The feeling, tentatively expressed, was that a unified, firmly democratic Germany deserved better from Hollywood. Instead, producers were peppered with scripts about the Fourth Reich. The Hoffman letter invoking the Nazi era seems to have plunged the German cultural establishment into a deep

depression. Perhaps this gritty survival of the Hollywood Nazi has helped to spur Germans to head for Tinseltown themselves. The talk now is of a third wave of German emigrants to Hollywood, the first having been in the 1920s with talented directors such as Ernst Lubitsch, and the second taking in many German refugees from the Nazis in the 1930s. The latest wave includes mainly cameramen but

also directors such as Roland Emmerich, who made last summer's hit *Independence Day*.

The film rights to Mr Folsom's book were bought for an undisclosed sum by MGM, the recently reinvigorated Hollywood studio. The producer behind the project is Richard Zanuck. Mr Folsom is said to have already made at least \$4 million (£2.3 million) from the book.

## Chirac warning as strikes loom over retirement

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC has warned France's public sector workers that mounting demands for earlier retirement, with the threat of further strikes, fly in the face of economic realities and will compound the country's woes.

Inspired by the success of the lorry drivers' strike in November, which extracted a promise of government funding to allow truckers to retire at 55, other sectors are now demanding to stop work earlier on full pensions.

Six major public transport unions have already called for a one-day strike on January 24 to press demands for retirement at 55 rather than the standard age of 60, and with unemployment at a record 12.7 per cent and the Government calling for greater budget austerity, the issue of early retirement is likely to be the next serious test of strength between Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, and the unions.

"Our compatriots wish to work less and retire earlier and I understand this," M Chirac said at the weekend. "But our country must not forget the economic and demographic realities of the world we live in... we will not do better if an ever-decreasing number of working people have to carry the weight of an increasing number of young and retired people."

Those hard economic truths were echoed yesterday by numerous key government figures, but they have found little resonance among workers who have seen the Government cave in to truckers. A recent poll by the BVA institute showed that more than six out of ten French voters favour an official retirement age of 55, while barely a third fear this "would aggravate the problem

of financing retirement". Paris transport workers already have the right to retire at 55, while train drivers can stop work on full pensions at 50. However, trade union leaders are divided, with the militant CGT and Force Ouvrière unions demanding earlier retirement and the moderate CFDT as yet uncommitted.

Ministers and other political notables have waded into the debate over whether early retirement will ease unemployment, an argument which Francois Bayrou, the Education Minister, declared was "a delusion and a lie".

Edouard Balladur, a former Prime Minister, argued that retirement age should be raised, not lowered, while Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, noted that "with life expectancy increasing constantly" the retirement age could go no lower. "It is inconceivable that a great majority of people could enjoy early retirement financed by a minority of the population in work," M Arthuis said.

Lowering the retirement age would add millions to the government deficit at a time when France is already struggling to meet the debt-reduction criteria for European monetary union.

Magazine fined: A Paris court fined the weekly *Paris-Match* €100,000 (£12,600) yesterday for publishing two photographs of the late French President, Francois Mitterrand, taken secretly as he lay on his deathbed.

It also ordered the magazine to pay each member of the Mitterrand family a symbolic €1 in damages for violating their privacy. The photographs showed Mitterrand's body in a dark suit and tie, with his hands crossed on his stomach. (Reuters)

## Spaniard's promotion deal angers some MEPs

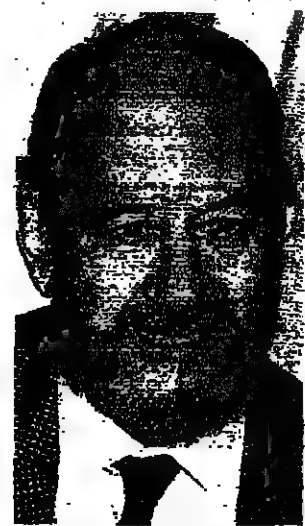
FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

BARRING an upset, a Spanish conservative from an illustrious family will be picked as President of the European Parliament today in a cosy deal with German parties that has stirred revolt among MEPs from smaller states and political groups.

José María Gil-Robles, 61, a lawyer, has landed the job in a "Buggins's turn" arrangement that has the blessing of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and José María Aznar, Spain's centre-right Prime Minister.

Señor Gil-Robles, deemed less than a heavyweight, follows Klaus Hänsch, the mild-mannered German Social Democrat, who has spent the past 2½ years as the leader of the European Union's only directly-elected assembly.

The presidency arrangement, which springs from the power balance in the 626-seat



Gil-Robles set to lead European Parliament

parliament, has prompted a revolt by liberals and left-wingers, led by French MEPs. About 100 votes in today's secret ballot are expected to go to Catherine Lalumière, a former minister under the late President Mitterrand, who is standing in protest against what she calls an undemocratic carve-up.

Spaniards and Germans of both Left and Right have shared the post between them since Britain's Lord Plumb stepped down in 1989.

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# Supreme Court weighs delay of Clinton sex case

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN A tense, one-hour sitting, the US Supreme Court yesterday heard both sides of the case of William Jefferson Clinton v Paula Corbin Jones, a sexual harassment suit which raises fundamental questions about the power of the presidency, as well as threatening to be highly embarrassing for Mr Clinton.

On the basis of yesterday's questioning — 30 minutes for each side — the court's nine judges will decide whether to allow Mrs Jones's sexual harassment suit to proceed while Mr Clinton is in the White House. Mrs Jones alleges that in 1991, when Mr Clinton was Governor of Arkansas and she was a state employee, he enticed her into a hotel room and made unwanted advances. Mr Clinton denies the allegations.

The court is not considering the merits of Mrs Jones's case, but simply the constitutional question of whether a president should have to face civil lawsuits unrelated to his presidency while he is in office.

Mr Clinton's lawyers argue that if the case proceeds, it will

trigger a flood of opportunistic, politically-motivated lawsuits against presidents. Mrs Jones's lawyers counter that "if you believe the President, then we have a monarchy, we have a king. If you believe Paula Jones, then we have public servants that remain accountable for their own personal, private conduct."

The court's judgment is due



Jones alleges Clinton made advances

by June, but in theory it could decide within weeks. Although the present judges give the court a conservative slant, its verdict is considered extremely hard to predict. If it appears likely to rule in Mrs Jones's favour, the President's lawyers are expected to try to reach a settlement.

During the hearing, the court's nine judges, handicapped by the shortage of precedents, questioned Mr Clinton's lawyers closely on why he did not have time to attend. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor asked Mr Clinton's lawyers how they would argue if the case was one of child custody, where time was critical.

The case has reached the Supreme Court because Mr Clinton has appealed to it to overturn the judgment of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled that it should go ahead provided that the judge was "sensitive" to the President's need to carry out his public duties.

The Supreme Court, whose judges are appointed for life by the President with Senate



Protesters at the Supreme Court show their support for Paula Jones as judges considered whether her case could be heard while Mr Clinton is President

approval, is designed to be a check on the power of both the presidency and Congress. Its extensive powers make it more than just a court: in effect, it is a law-making body. It determines whether power belongs to national government or to the states, and can review

decisions of lower courts, state laws and Acts of Congress. While the court was in session, 30 demonstrators braved below-freezing temperatures to wave placards proclaiming "Give Paula her day", "President or King?" and "Zippergate".

A man dressed in a furry white duck costume paraded the sign "Stop ducking responsibility, Mr President" while a troupe calling itself "Five Flashers for Clinton", dressed in mackintoshes, shoes and socks, held a banner warning that "an accused sexual preda-

tor is at large in this neighbourhood, residing at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue". After the hearing, Gilbert Davis, Mrs Jones's lawyer, said: "Justice delayed is justice denied." Joseph Cammarata, her second lawyer, fiercely attacked women's groups for hypocri-

sy, failing to support Mrs Jones because they regarded Mr Clinton as sympathetic to their causes. Robert Bennett, Mr Clinton's lawyer, would say only: "I think it's time to be circumspect."

Exposing President, page 20

## Peru siege rebels shoot at police as 'warning' in war of nerves

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN LIMA

TUPAC AMARU rebels, holding 74 people hostage in the Japanese Ambassador's mansion in Lima, sparked panic yesterday when they ran out into the walled garden and fired at a dozen shots in the direction of police posts.

Policemen, posted all around the compound, dived for cover, but refrained from firing back. The gunfire was heard just before midday, when the Red Cross had left after delivering a daily consignment of food and water for the hostages. Michel Minnig, the Red Cross representative, returned to the mansion and was able to confirm that none of the hostages was injured.

The burst of gunfire was the heaviest of its kind since the Marxist rebels took over the mansion on December 17 to demand the release of their jailed comrades. Television footage showed two heavily armed rebels, with grenades strapped to their bodies and wearing bulletproof vests, firing in all directions around the compound. "We heard at least 12 gunshots coming in our direction, but they appeared to be a provocation rather than an attempt to hit at specific targets," a policeman on the scene said.

In two previous incidents, a lone rebel patrolling the walled garden at night had

fired shots. Infra-red television cameras had caught him running in and out of the mansion as well as shooting towards police posts.

As the siege draws into its fourth week nerves are fraying. The rebels are making renewed attempts to draw attention to their demands, which so far have been ignored by President Fujimori's Government.

Red Cross workers said the rebels had stated that the shots had been meant as a "warning" to the Government. Yesterday's shooting spree came after what appears to be the breakdown of dialogue. Expectations of an end to

the siege had been raised earlier when the Government said its chief negotiator would hold a second face-to-face meeting with Nestor Cerpa Carollini, the rebel leader. But that was cancelled after the rebels reiterated their demand that 440 of their imprisoned comrades be freed.

Lima was not ready to talk on those terms. A spokesman said the Government proposed the setting up of a "commission of guarantors" to start talks about a "possible peaceful solution".

A Western envoy said: "The Government is ready to let this drag on as a war of nerves and see who breaks first."



Messer: alleged sadistic attacks by male cadets

## 'Harassed' women march out of Citadel

BY BRONWEN MADDOX

TWO of the four women cadets admitted to the Citadel, the tough South Carolina military college, have dropped out alleging "criminal, sadistic and disgusting" harassment.

Kim Messer and Jeanie Menavios enrolled last August when the school changed its admissions policy. They say they were sprayed with nail polish remover and set on fire, that face cream was put in their mouths, and that they were shoved around with rifles.

Neither Miss Messer nor Miss Menavios was injured in the incidents, which emerged in December. According to the Citadel, 11 cadets had been charged with rule violations. Punishment could range from marching tours to expulsion.

In 1993 Shannon Faulkner, admitted under court order, became its first female cadet, only to drop out during the first week of classes in 1995 citing stress and isolation.

The Citadel began admitting women last year after the US Supreme Court ruled that single-sex education at publicly-funded military colleges was unconstitutional. On joining, Miss Faulkner gave an interview calling Miss Faulkner "unmotivated, undetermined and physically unfit". In contrast, she had spent six weeks at a Reserve Officers' Training Corps camp.

Despite an assurance that the Citadel is improving security, they will not return. "While I might be physically safe on campus, I would not be welcome," Miss Messer says.

## Old pets' home will come up to scratch

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A MILLION-DOLLAR retirement home for pets — complete with scratching posts, ambulating rooms and kind-to-paws heated floors — is to be built in New York.

The pets' nursing home, believed to be the first of its kind in the world, will provide old-age care for faithful family animals. The regime will include climbing ladders, free rubber balls and gentle, twice-daily walks.

To satisfy "feline residents", as a brochure describes them, a greenhouse-style sun trap will be reserved for pensioned-off cats, with plenty of window space.

Pet owners from around the world have expressed interest in booking their elderly pets into the Bide-A-Wee Association's "Golden Years" pets' home in Westhampton, Long Island. Building work on the home is expected to begin in a couple of months, and Bide-A-Wee, which already runs pet shelters in Manhattan, hopes to have its new facility open by the autumn.

Provisional fees will be a one-off payment of \$10,000 (£6,300) for any dog or cat, with the proviso that the pets must be at least eight years old — 56 in human terms — and must be judged to be unadoptable.

Bide-A-Wee expects that the majority of customers will be people who are themselves in the autumn of their years and no longer able to look after their four-legged companions. "We had one man who called us whose wife has passed away, he has three pugs, and he does not want them to be separated when he passes away," Elizabeth Cooke, president of Bide-A-Wee, a charitable institution, said.

The \$10,000 fee will cover burial or cremation costs, plus a small headstone in Westhampton's exclusive Pet Memorial Park — animals' answer to Highgate cemetery.

The opening of a pet retirement home appears to reflect a growing disinclination among ageing Americans to ask their young relations to "look after Rex" in their dying wishes. A pet is no longer "for life" but rather "until I die".

## Sudan readies troops after Ethiopian raids

Khartoum: The Sudanese Government yesterday prepared public opinion for a military campaign after the army said that Ethiopian forces had attacked two border towns. State radio and television broadcast patriotic songs and poetry, with messages supporting the Government and attacking Ethiopian "aggression".

The radio said the Osman Digna brigade of the paramilitary People's Defence Forces was preparing to leave for the border towns of Kurmuk and Qeisan, 360 miles southeast of the capital. Sudanese rebels say they captured Kurmuk and some army garrisons in Blue Nile Province on Sunday in the first big combined operation by northern and southern opponents of the Khartoum Government. (Reuters)

## Quake shakes Cyprus cities

Nicosia: A powerful earthquake of the coast of Cyprus yesterday shook buildings on the island and was also felt in Israel, Lebanon and Egypt (Michael Theodorou writes). Office workers in some Cypriot cities rushed into the streets during the 30-second tremor, but there were no reports of damage or casualties. Experts said the impact of the quake, which measured 5.8 on the Richter scale, was weakened because it had originated 12½ miles underground and the energy was released in short bursts. The epicentre was about 30 miles southwest of Paphos, in the same area as an earthquake last October that killed one person in Cairo.

## Hutu questions witness

Kigali, Tanzania: The UN tribunal on Rwanda took the unprecedented step of granting a request by an ethnic Hutu, accused of genocide, to cross-examine the first prosecution witness directly. Jean-Marie Akayesu, the former mayor of Kigali's Taba commune, pointedly tried to undermine the credibility of the witness, known only as "K", to protect her identity. She told the court that he had personally ordered the hacking to death of eight Tutsis. Mr Akayesu, 43, has pleaded not guilty to charges of genocide. (Reuters)

## Yeltsin's wife in hospital

Moscow: Naína Yeltsin, the wife of the Russian President, joined her husband in the Central Clinical Hospital, suffering from what the Kremlin described as an infection (Robin Lodge writes). Sergei Yestrichemsky, the presidential spokesman, said Mrs Yeltsin's condition was not serious and that she had been to see her husband, who is stable with pneumonia, several times since being admitted. In August, Mrs Yeltsin, 64, underwent surgery on her kidneys.

## Algerian rebels kill 19

Algiers: An armed group slit the throats of 14 people in "Bineit village 30 miles south of here, sticking some victims' heads on stakes. In a nearby village, five young women who refused to cover their heads were "judged", then killed. The attacks, confirmed by security forces, were the latest in a wave of terror marking Saturday's fifth anniversary of a military-led coup that scrapped Muslim-won elections. (AP)

## Fiord vehicles in pile-up

Copenhagen: A Dane whose car went through ice trying to cross a frozen fiord borrowed a four-wheel drive vehicle to haul it out, but that also went through the ice. So did a tractor and then a truck, and then another borrowed tractor. The national rescue service eventually did the trick after seven hours, the Berlingske Tidende newspaper reports. (AP)

## Greek Cypriot vow on missiles eases tension

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

RAUF DENKTAS, the Turkish Cypriot leader, last night welcomed confirmation by President Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, that Russian anti-aircraft missiles would not be deployed on the divided island for at least 16 months.

But he rejected an assessment by Carey Cavanaugh, the US envoy, that the crisis was over.

Greek Cypriot officials said the missile delay left ample time to achieve an overall solution to the long-running Cyprus problem, but that they would take delivery of the

missiles in the summer of 1998 if there was no progress.

European diplomats said this showed that the Greek Cypriot Government still viewed the missiles as a bargaining chip. They said that continuing tensions would make it very difficult for the international community to help to bring about a Cyprus settlement this year.

The Belgian Government also confirmed that Turkey was negotiating to buy surplus Belgian and Dutch surface-to-air missile systems from a French company.

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CHANGING TIMES



# Home alone

As workers we are like bees and our instinct is to hive, says Giles Coren

Working from home was going to be the social revolution of the 1990s. A combination of factors — better and cheaper home computers, modems and faxes, fibre-optic technology — was going to make it easier. Everything from air pollution to sexual harassment was going to make it desirable. And business fashion was going to make it inevitable.

It has begun to happen, and the deluded workers who remain in the office are fewer, more miserable, more tired, more stressed, more ill. Downsizing, right-sizing, outsourcing has sent us scattering to the green belt to rear nuclear families, keep dogs, bake bread, and file our wage-earning efforts down telephone lines.

It sounded like a dream lifestyle. Every consideration was catered for. Except one: loneliness.

Human beings like to bustle. They like to fuss and fidget, and grumble and gossip. They are gregarious by nature, and while good friends and family are important, it is the wide cast of passing acquaintances and low-grade office enemies that keep us ticking over. We may be social animals, but as workers we are bees. And our instinct is to hive.

"I think we are beginning to see the end of this fashion for moving out to Cornwall with a modern, or setting up a post office in West Wales," says the occupational psychologist Peter Forsyth, of Career Analysts Ltd, which advises people on just such job-changing issues as this. "There was a huge rush out of the office in the heyday of downsizing, back in the early Nineties. Big corporations were laying people off and they were taking their redundancy payments and seeing it as an opportunity to set up on their own."

But the price they paid was loneliness. Suddenly they found they were missing people — those informal chats over coffee, or a sandwich, in the canteen. We are gregarious creatures and it is part of the human psyche to need interaction with others — both for friendship, and for advantage, which is to say networking.

But surely the home working life must suit some people? "About one fifth of the workforce is suited to working from home," says Mr Forsyth. "We can run a psychometric test that will determine how each person will respond to it. We would be looking for strong independence, indicating high autonomy. Low anxiety is very important, as is imaginativeness and detachment. It is a profile that does not fit many people."

The big boom in working from home was all a bit of an overreaction," he says. "And it is already coming to an end. As people realise that it was not all it was cracked up to be, the wine circles and other groups are filling up with lonely people, and I anticipate fairly soon doing a lot of work with people, trying to get back into the office."

If further evidence was needed that the boom in working from home is



One fifth of the workforce is suited to working from home. A psychometric test can evaluate each person's response to it

creating a craving for human interaction, look at the swelling memberships of such organisations as the Royal Horticultural Society, which is up to 200,000. Membership of the National Trust has risen 11 per cent in the past six years to 2,269,563. In the same period, membership of the Royal Geographical Society has risen by 30 per cent and the Ramblers Association has seen its ranks increase by 40 per cent. We are just too gregarious to work from home, and our impulse to yak, natter and distract ourselves is seeing us run to whichever groups will have us, to get our fix of social interaction.

In the village of Blewbury, in Oxfordshire, the writer and publisher Stephen Gaiman, who had moved out from Putney, very quickly missed the buzz of office life, and set up the Home Alone Club with an advertisement in the *Blewbury Bulletin*. Soon he had architects, gardeners, accountants and animators beating a path to his door, selected on the simple question "do you work with people?" to weed out interlopers. Last month they even had their first Christmas party.

Then there is the Freelancers' Convention, a group of freelancers, mainly writers, who gather once a month for lunch to "create a metaphor for office chit-chat and ribaldry".

Michael Wright, who has been a freelance writer for the past five years, was a founder member. "Working alone at home all day, you can begin to feel rather isolated. We set up this group to give ourselves a sort of virtual community. The whole point of the freelance life is the freedom, from the bitterness of office politics as much as anything else. But you are working in a vacuum, and you need ways of alleviating that pressure." Meeting in pubs and restaurants on the last Friday of each month since March 1996, by November the group was up to 12 regulars, and in December, of course, came the office party.

"Half the stuff we talk about is general day-to-day gossip, who's in who's out, the rubbish that people in offices take for granted. It is not a necessity in the freelance life, but it is an enhancement — our conversations are a bit useful, too."

While not everyone is able to enjoy the constructed camaraderie created by

Messrs Gaymer or Wright, most home-aloners find other ways to hive. The number of people eating out has soared and in big cities it is becoming harder and harder to book tables, as spaces are filled by the lonely self-employed getting their weekly fix of humanity. On the way home they leer greedily through office windows, half-dreaming of a grimy nine-to-five, watery tea from a machine and a bitchy boss barking into their ear.

The popularity of gyms and health clubs, night schools, the revival of Tupperware and Anne Summers parties, sad conversational Web sites on the Internet, all testify to the desperation with which the newly dislocated are seeking a little quotidian company to keep themselves ticking over.

When, in 1987, Margaret Thatcher announced that there was no such thing as society, she was wrong. If she said it today, she would be closer to the truth. Each home-aloner who forsakes the office and then grows bored and lonely and sets up an awkward appreciation council to while away the hours, drives another nail into the fabric of modern life. You cannot replace society with societies.

## Tony Cardwell swapped teaching for thatching Out of the classroom and on to the rooftop

The idea of emptying your office desk into a bin bag and heading in a new direction is alluring. We imagine we will be reinvigorated, rejuvenated even, in a new career, and will face life with fresh verve and eagerness.

And yet we seldom do it. Perhaps because there is so little precedent for it, or because we do not know what to do instead, or because we are afraid.

So here is the experience of Tony Cardwell, 58, a Kent thatcher who spent the first 20 years of his professional life as a teacher, before seeing the light in 1983, and heading for the rooftops.

"Not only was teaching not what I had planned to do," Mr Cardwell recalls, "it was also what I had always planned not to do. I don't mean to knock the profession. It is a very satisfying and worthwhile life, and dedicated teachers are fine people. It was just that I never intended to do it. I had originally wanted to be a writer, but since I was not prepared to live in a garret with only a crust of bread to eat, I tried my hand at a number of professions."

After Tonbridge School, and a philosophy degree at Bristol University, Mr Cardwell found career options were not so much about what he wanted from life as what he did not want.

"I felt no specific calling in any one direction, but I knew that I wanted to do something creative. At university I played jazz, and there did come an opportunity to join a professional band, which I decided not to do," he says. After a period spent living in a croft in Scotland, "writing in daylight because there was no electricity," he came to London to work in a publishing house, and realised that living in a big city, and commuting every day, was not what he wanted.

He gave up writing when he realised he was not going to make it and got a temporary job as a teacher. "In those days all you needed to teach was a university degree. I soon discovered that it was not nearly as bad as I had thought so I looked around for a permanent job, which I found at a remarkable boarding school called Bethany School, in the Weald of Kent.

"It was a terrific life, and I hope I did it justice. I was an English master and also involved in everything from rugby and cricket to clay pigeon shooting. While at first I lived in the school, I soon got married and moved into my own house."

And for the next 20 years all was well. "I was very happy at Bethany, though for perhaps the last ten years the idea of getting out had been rumbling around in my mind." By 1983, when his children were in their teens, he felt the time was right to make a change.

"I was living in a thatched house at that time, and it so happened that the roof needed some attention. I became aware that the Thatching Advisory Service, with whom my roof was insured, was training thatchers and selling them franchises."

Mr Cardwell completed his training and bought a franchise. "At last I was working from home. It was a lovely change, and a very pleasant lifestyle. I had a terrific sense

of freedom and found the creative life I had been looking for." But there was a catch.

If you have followed a particular way of life for 20 years, surrounded by people who constantly demand your time and attention, and then find yourself working in solitude, above ground level, it can be extremely difficult to adjust.

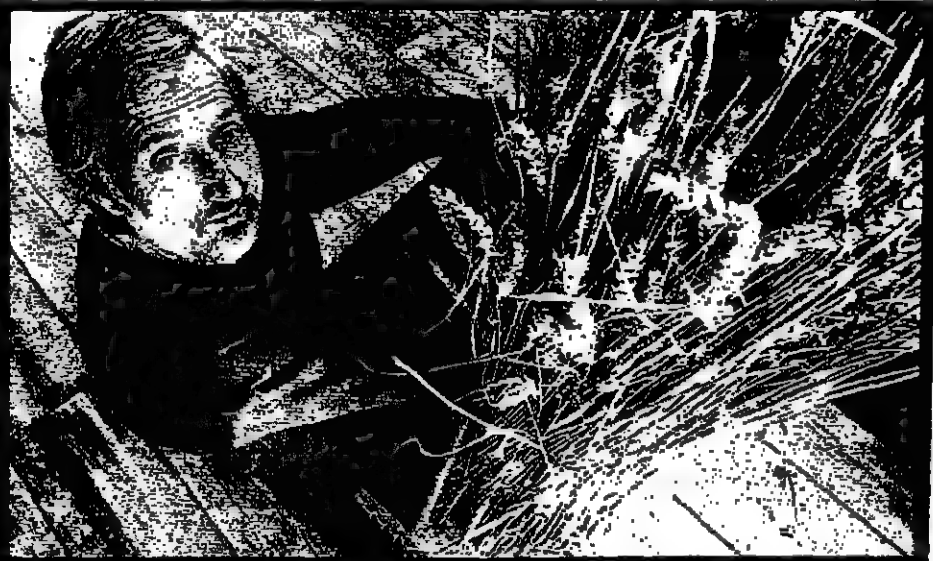
"I had spent 20 years in an environment where life was governed by the ringing of bells, for the masters as much as the pupils, and everything had been highly regimented. Suddenly, I was running my own little business, with total freedom of movement. A job pops up, and you go out and do it — travelling around the country working for all sorts of different people."

"I would warn anyone contemplating such a change of careers that there are dangers. You don't go mad or anything, but there are psychological effects. My marriage went over the side in the end. It was not a direct result of the job change, my wife had been utterly supportive in that. What happened ultimately was that I had an affair. It was unforgivable, I know, and I would not have expected my wife to stay with me after that. We separated nine years ago."

Thirteen years into thatching, however, there are few regrets. "Everything in life has its ups and downs, and unforeseen consequences. But that shouldn't stop you from following your chosen path. We must all try to fulfil our inner selves in every possible way, and to use our talents as best we can. It was the logical move at the time, and I am glad that I did it."

"When I do a bit of thatching, or play jazz, I feel that I have arrived. A bit late in life, perhaps, but I'm there."

GILES COREN



Tony Cardwell, teacher turned thatcher: "I found the creative life I was looking for"

A well-paid and successful job isn't everything, as Catherine Lucas discovered

## When Earth comes first, and money second

Lying on the hard, cold ground in my sleeping bag, I gazed up into a dark sky, glittering with stars. It was late, probably three or four in the morning and although my bed was spartan, it was a relief to be in it. The day had begun early. I had cooked breakfast for about 30 people, spent most of the day sitting in a road waiting for something to happen and I had been on watch since midnight, armed with a walkie-talkie.

The past five days had been exactly the same and I was tired, dirty and strangely exhilarated. I was at an Earthfirst camp, in Oregon, protesting against the logging of an area of ancient forest. Earthfirst specialises in on-site direct action protests and all around me people were digging trenches and rigging platforms in an attempt to stop the loggers.

Only a few months before I had been a television producer, living in London, with a wardrobe full of clothes, a diary full of dinner parties and a life made miserable with stress and deadlines. Now, to my surprise, I found myself labelled as an eco-terrorist, using my television skills to try to portray the protest in a favourable light to an extremely hostile local media.

I had had reservations about my job for some time. For a start I knew that it was physically damaging. By the end of every contract I was

exhausted and I would spend the free time you are supposed to enjoy as a freelancer recovering enough energy to begin working again. I also had the unshakeable feeling that there was something else I should be doing, something that would contribute to the well-being of others and bring me greater happiness.

For years I told myself I had no right to complain, that I should be grateful to have a fascinating, well-paid, sought after job. And I was. So I continued to pursue my goal of becoming a successful producer. Yet the doubts lingered and, ironically, what I gained most from the struggle to get to the top was the self-confidence to stop: once I had proved I could be successful, I no longer needed to go on doing it.

Even so it took a moment of shattering truth to convince me. A project was proving particularly difficult. I had no sleep for weeks and one morning as I walked to the office, I suddenly thought "Supposing I was run over? Supposing I died feeling like this?" It died feeling like this. It is not a perfect sense. It is not a dying that worries me, but the state I am in when I go. I

would like to die with a degree of clarity and I realised the only way to ensure that was to change the way I lived.

So I finished my contract and, with no definite plans, I told my family and friends that this was my last television job. People told me I was "crazy" and that I was "throwing my career away". After a while I understood that in some way my decision threatened the status quo and people were really expressing their own fear of change.

Following through with my decision required a major leap of faith, in myself and in the infinite potential of the universe. Over a period of several months the things that I had drawn on for security

and identity — friends, relationships, routine, possessions — slowly evaporated and it became increasingly challenging to live with uncertainty. I found that in order to answer the question of what to do next I had to begin a process of self-examination. Eventually I worked my way to the core issue — what did I need to do in order to feel OK about myself?

To my surprise a nasty tangle of concerns about money, power and fame presented themselves. It was a shock to realise I had been making choices based on values that were not my own and I began to replace these impostors with something more appropriate. It was hard work and one day I was rescued from despair by an image of a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis. It was an inspiration — not only did the butterfly have to struggle for freedom, it also had no choice but to follow its destiny.

Gradually my faith in the Universe was rewarded and life opened up. I had the feeling of being in the right place at the right time and strange coincidences occurred. I went to the Earthfirst camp with my cousin Susie, a

forest activist in Oregon. The day I arrived at her house, she got a call saying that a controversial timber sale had been approved by the Forest Service. No one knew when logging would start, but people were gathering to protest and Earthfirst had already set up camp. We drove there immediately.

At the camp I decided to stay for a while, seduced by the commitment and passion of the people around me. I soon discovered many of them had once had "respectable" jobs. One was a professor who had felt increasingly isolated from what was really happening, others were former government scientists, there was even a man who'd been a logger.

Although it seems momentous when you are doing it, actually people change careers all the time. Ultimately it boils down to whether you will give yourself permission to pursue what you really want from life. And even though it can be frightening and difficult, it is well worth suffering a little discomfort, because there is so much to be gained.

The things I had drawn on for security evaporated

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In the second extract from Anne Frank's unexpurgated diaries, Anne's developing

# Love and a first kiss

ANNE FRANK STICHTING



The Amsterdam house where the Frank family hid

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1944**  
Love, what is love? I don't think you can really put it into words. Love is understanding someone, caring for him, sharing his joys and sorrows. This eventually includes physical love. Losing your virtue doesn't matter, as long as you know that for as long as you live you'll have someone at your side who understands you, and who doesn't have to be shared with anyone else!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1944**  
This is the first Saturday in months that hasn't been tiresome, dreary and boring. The reason is Peter. This morning we spoke French together for a while and I explained something to Peter, and then we worked on our English. Father read aloud from Dickens, and I was in seventh heaven, since I was sitting on Father's chair, close to Peter.

I went downstairs at quarter to 11. When I went back up at 11.30 Peter was already waiting for me on the stairs. We talked until quarter to one.

Oh, I'm so happy! I wonder if he's going to fall in love with me after all? In any case, he's a nice boy, and you have no idea how good it is to talk to him! Mrs van D thinks it's all right for me to talk to Peter, but today she asked teasingly, "can I trust you two up there?"

"Of course," I protested. "I take that as an insult!" Morning, noon and night, I look forward to seeing Peter.

I can tell by Peter's face that he ponders things just as deeply as I do. Last night I was annoyed when Mrs van D

scolded, "the thinker!" Peter flushed and looked embarrassed, and I nearly blew my top.

Why don't these people keep their mouths shut? You can't imagine what it's like to have to stand on the sidelines and see how lonely he is, without being able to do anything. I can imagine, as if I were in his place, how despondent he must sometimes feel at the quarrels. And about love. Poor Peter, he needs to be loved so much!

Oh, Peter, if only I could help you, if only you would let me! Together we could banish our loneliness, yours and mine!

**I'm doing my best not to chase after him, but it's not easy!**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1944**  
I've been dreaming of Peter a great deal. The night before last I dreamt we were standing in Peter's room, facing each other beside the stairs. I said something to him; he gave me a kiss, but replied that he didn't love me all that much and that

I shouldn't flirt. In a desperate and pleading voice I said, "I'm not flirting, Peter!"

When I woke up, I was glad Peter hadn't said it after all.

Last night I dreamt we were kissing each other, but Peter's cheeks were very disappointing: they weren't as soft as they looked. They were more like Father's cheeks — the cheeks of a man who already shaves.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1944**  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday I was in Peter's room from 4.30 till 5.15. We worked on our French and chatted about one thing and another. I really look forward to that hour or so in the

afternoon, but best of all is that I think Peter's just as pleased to see me.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 1944**  
Things are getting crazier here as the days go by. Peter hasn't looked at me since yesterday. He's been behaving as if he's cross with me. I'm doing my best not to chase after him and to talk to him as little as possible, but it's not easy. What's going on, what makes him keep me at arm's length one minute and rush back to my side the next? Perhaps I'm imagining that it's worse than it really is. Perhaps he's just moody like me, and tomorrow everything will be all right again!

I'm in a state of utter confusion: on the one hand, I'm half mad with desire for him, can hardly be in the same room without looking at him; and on the other hand, I wonder why he should matter to me so much and why I can't be calm again!

Day and night, during every waking hour, I do nothing but ask myself, "Have you given him enough chance to be alone? Have you been spending too much time upstairs? Do you talk too much about serious subjects he's not yet ready to talk about? Maybe he doesn't even like you? Has it all been your imagination? But then why has he told you so much about himself? Is he sorry he did? And a whole lot more."

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1944**  
Parents, and people in general, are very peculiar when it comes to sex. Instead of telling their sons and daughters everything at the age of 12, they send their children out of the room the moment the subject arises and leave them to find out everything on their own. Later on, when parents notice that their children have, somehow, come by their information, they assume they know more (or less) than they actually do. So why don't they try to make amends by asking them what's what?

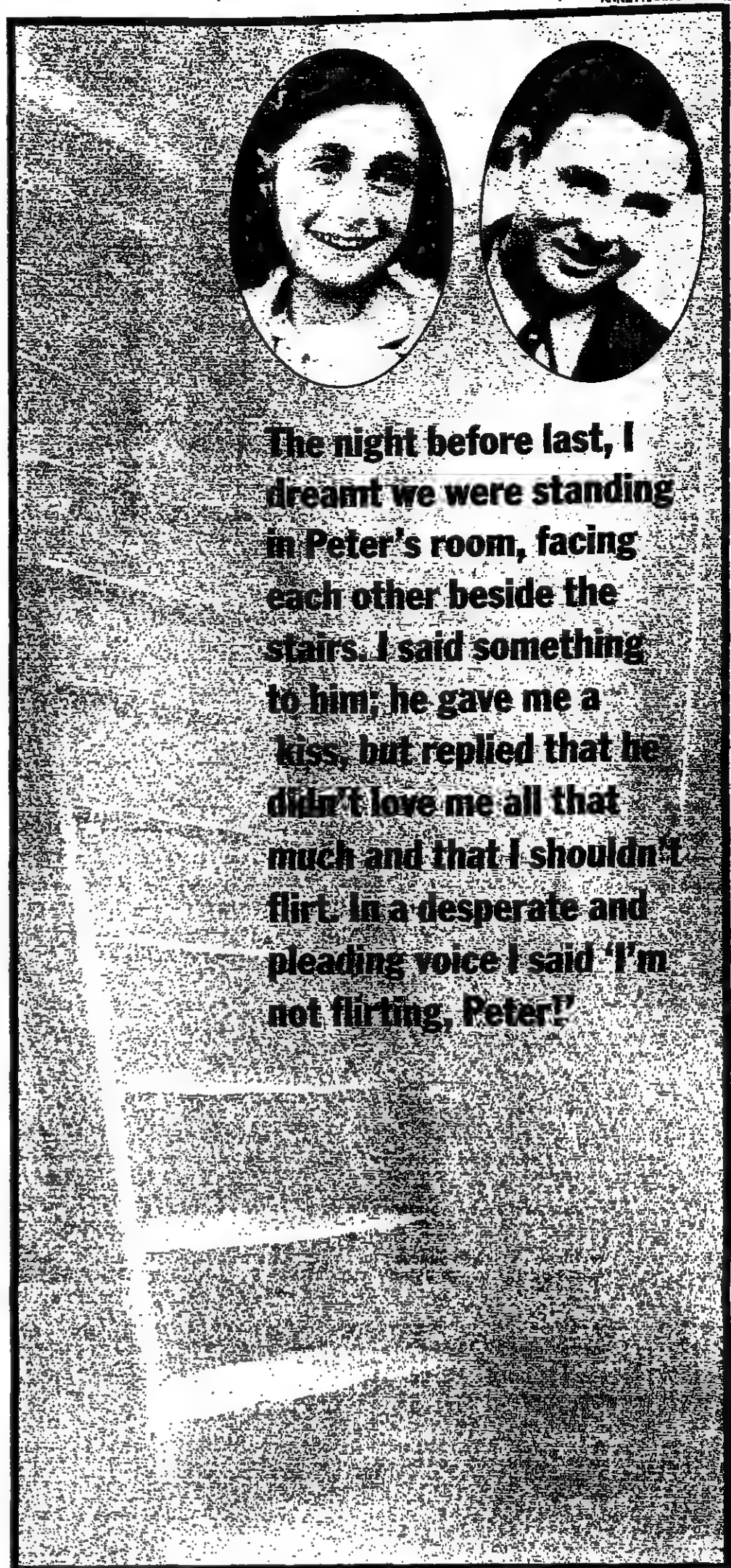
A major stumbling block for the adults — though in my opinion it's no more than a pebble — is that they're afraid their children will no longer look upon marriage as sacred and pure once they realise that, in most cases, this purity is a lot of nonsense. As far as I'm concerned, it's not wrong for a man to bring a little experience to a marriage. After all, it has nothing to do with the marriage itself, does it?

Soon after I turned 11 they told me about menstruation. But even then, I had no idea where the blood came from or what it was for. When I was 12½ I learnt some more from Jacques, who wasn't as ignorant as I was. My own intuition told me what a man and a woman do when they're together: it seemed like a crazy idea at first, but when Jacques confirmed it, I was proud of myself for having worked it out!

It was also Jacques who told me that children didn't come out of their mother's tummies. As she put it, "where the ingredients go in is where the finished product comes out". Jacques and I found out about the hymen, and quite a few other details, from a book on sex education. I also knew that you could keep from having children, but how that worked inside your body remained a mystery. When I came here, Father told me about prostitutes, etc., but all in all there are still unanswered questions.

If mothers don't tell their children everything, they hear it in bits and pieces, and that can't be right.

Even though it's Saturday, I'm not bored! That's because I've been up in the attic with Peter. I sat there dreaming



The annexe, and inset, Anne Frank and Peter van Daan. "He helps me through many a rough patch."

**The night before last, I dreamt we were standing in Peter's room, facing each other beside the stairs. I said something to him; he gave me a kiss, but replied that he didn't love me all that much and that I shouldn't flirt. In a desperate and pleading voice I said 'I'm not flirting, Peter!'**

with my eyes closed, and it was wonderful.

I was with Peter yesterday and, somehow, I honestly don't know how, we ended up talking about sex. I'd made up my mind a long time ago to ask him a few things. He knows everything; when I said that Margot and I weren't very well informed, he was amazed.

He offered to enlighten me, and I gratefully accepted: he described how contraceptives work, and I asked him very boldly how boys could tell they were grown up. He had to think about that one, he said he'd tell me tonight. I told him what had happened to Jacques, and said that girls are defenceless against strong boys. "Well, you don't have to be afraid of me," he said.

When I came back that evening, he told me how it is with boys. Slightly embarrassing, but still awfully nice to be able to discuss it with him. Neither he nor I had ever imagined we'd be able to talk so openly to a girl or a boy, respectively, about such intimate matters. I think I know everything now.

That night in the bathroom Margot and I were talking about Bram and Trees, two friends of hers.

This morning I was in for a nasty surprise: after breakfast Peter beckoned me upstairs. "That was a dirty trick you played on me," he said. "I heard what you and Margot were saying in the bathroom last night. I think you just wanted to find out how much Peter knew and then have a good laugh!"

I was stunned! I did everything I could to talk him out of that outrageous idea: I could understand how he must have felt, but it just wasn't true!

"Oh no, Peter," I said. "I'd never be so rotten. I told you I

wouldn't pass on anything you said to me and I won't."

Thank goodness he came right out and said what was on his mind. Imagine if he'd gone around thinking I could be that horrible. He's so sweet!

Now I'd have to tell him everything!

**FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1944**  
I've had to listen to countless remarks about our sudden friendship. I can't tell you how often the conversation at meals has been about an Anne wedding, should the war last another five years.

Do we take any notice of this parental chitchat? Hardly, since it's all so silly. Have my parents forgotten that they were young once? Apparently they have. At any rate, they laugh at us when we're serious, and they're serious when we're joking.

If only his parents would stop acting so strangely. It's probably because they don't like seeing me so often. Peter and I certainly never tell them what we talk about. Imagine if they knew we were discussing such intimate things.

I'd like to ask Peter whether he knows what girls look like down there. I don't think boys are as complicated as girls. You can easily see what boys look like in photographs or pictures of male nudes, but with women it's different. In women, the genitals, or whatever they're called, are hidden between their legs. Peter has probably never seen a girl up close. To tell you the truth, neither have I. Boys are a lot easier.

How on earth would I go about describing a girl's parts? I can tell from what he said that he doesn't know exactly how it all fits together. He was talking about the "Muttermund", but that's on the inside, where you can't

see it. Everything's pretty well arranged in us women.

\*Cervix

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1944**  
Peter helps me through many a rough patch and rainy day. I honestly don't know how much he loves me and whether we'll ever get as far as a kiss; in any case, I don't want to force the issue! I told Father I often go and see Peter and asked if he approved, and of course he did!

It's much easier now to tell Peter things I'd normally keep to myself: for example, I told him I want to write later on, and if I can't be a writer, to write in addition to my work.

I don't have much in the way of money or worldly possessions. I'm not beautiful, intelligent or clever, but I'm happy, and I intend to stay that way! I was born happy, I love people, I have a trusting nature, and I'd like everyone else to be happy too.

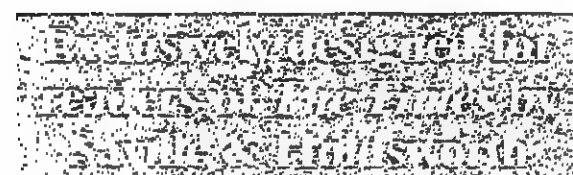
**SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1944**  
Everything is still so difficult. I long so much for him to kiss me, but that kiss is taking its own sweet time. Does he still think of me as a friend? Don't I mean anything more?

I can't. I simply can't forget that dream of Peter's cheek, when everything was so good! Does he have the same longing? Is he just too shy to say he loves me? Why does he want me near him so much? Oh, why doesn't he say something?

I've got to stop, I've got to be calm. I'll try to be strong again, and if I'm patient, the rest will follow. But — and this

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CHANGING TIMES



**Sources broke P's nose**



Anne, left, with her father, Otto, and elder sister, Margot, in 1941 and, right, with Margot. "Peter knows everything; when I said that Margot and I weren't very well informed, he was amazed. He offered to enlighten me, and I gratefully accepted."

getting him back on his own feet. I soon realised he could never be a kindred spirit, but still tried to help him break out of his narrow world and expand his youthful horizons.

● Taken from *The Diary of a Young Man* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

# Now ater

[illegible]



# Should the President be exposed?

Gary McDowell on the Supreme Court and Clinton v Paula Jones

Gladstone once described the American Constitution as "the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man". Later this year, Bill Clinton will find out if he agrees. Some time before the end of June, the Supreme Court of the United States will decide the case of *William Jefferson Clinton v Paula Jones*. The oral arguments were heard on Monday. The issue is whether the President is immune from civil lawsuits while in office.

This suit is one of the most salacious ever to involve a President, either before or after leaving office. Mrs Jones has claimed that while an employee of the State of Arkansas, she was spied by the then Governor, approached by his bodyguard who informed her that the Governor said she "made his knees knock", and escorted to a room at the Excelsior Hotel by the dutiful drone. What happened next is what is to be settled in the sexual harassment suit.

According to Mrs Jones, Mr Clinton groped and fondled her, and finally dropped his trousers, exposed himself and invited her to "kiss it". She declined, she claims, and left the room. Mr Clinton's only response to the allegations has been that he does not remember doing such things. She insists she can prove it in court by describing certain "distinguishing marks" on the President's private parts. If the case goes ahead, it will eclipse even the O.J. Simpson trial as a cultural landmark.

Unfortunately for the prudent, the Supreme Court is not concerned with those interesting details. Its focus is on whether the Constitution provides presidential immunity from civil suits. Clinton argues that a President besieged by lawsuits would be unable to carry out the duties of his office. Yet Mrs Jones's compelling claim that plaintiffs deserve their day in court, regardless of who the defendant might be, is also well rooted in the American legal tradition. Justice delayed may indeed be justice denied.

The Supreme Court might come down either way. Even though the justices are political creatures, appointed by the President and approved by the Senate, their life tenure means they are beholden to no one. As President Harry Truman once put it, "once you put a man on the court, he ceases to be your friend".

Several of the justices have well-known views on the importance of an independent and energetic executive within the Constitution's scheme of separated powers. Ironically, they are the justices appointed by the last two Republican Presidents, Reagan and Bush. Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Associate Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas may well conclude that the inherent constitutional powers of the presidency demand that Mrs Jones's lawsuit be postponed. If these three stick together, as they

often do, and are able to persuade the two other Reagan-appointed Associate Justices, then the President will prevail with a 5-4 decision. However, there are precedents that might channel the court toward Paula Jones's claim. The most striking is the Watergate decision, *United States v Nixon*, which demanded the tapes be turned over to the Special Prosecutor, and led ultimately to Nixon's resignation. The issue then was whether a President's communications in the Oval Office are protected under the doctrine of executive privilege. Like the doctrine of immunity being claimed by Clinton, executive privilege is a power of the presidency inferred from the constitutional design but not explicit in the Constitution.

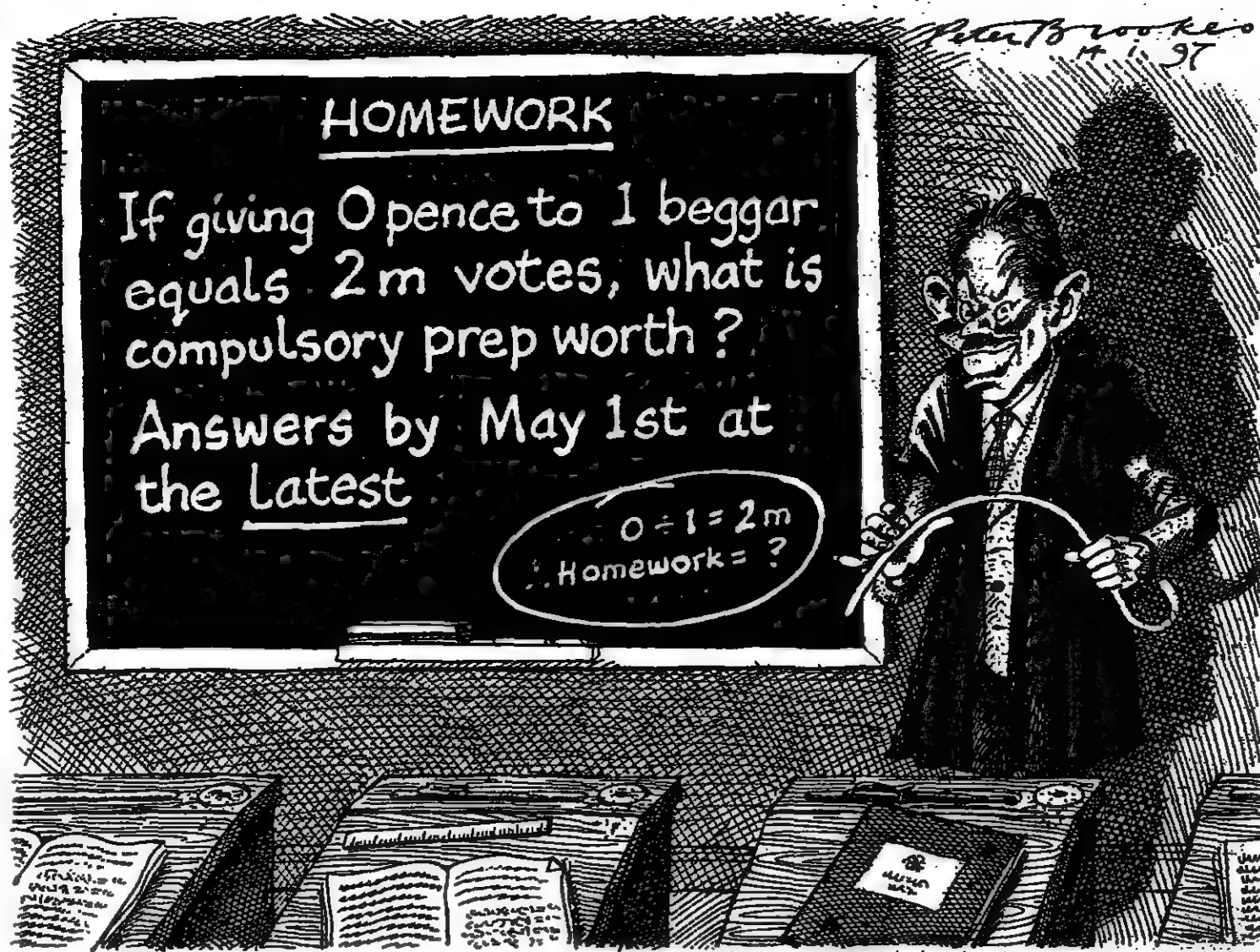
In the Nixon case, the Court held that while executive privilege was a reasonable inference, it was not absolute and did not apply in the case at hand. The demands of the judicial process in a criminal trial took precedence over general claims of presidential privilege. It is no great leap from that logic to the issues raised by Clinton v Jones. The Court may once again hold that the legitimate claims of the judicial process outweigh presidential privilege. No doubt many of Mrs Jones's conservative supporters would delight in the symbolism of Clinton being hit by the very club that felled Nixon.

However, there is a twist. Of those who were on the Supreme Court in 1974, only Chief Justice Rehnquist remains. And in the Nixon case, he excused himself because he had previously served as Assistant Attorney-General for legal counsel in the first Nixon Administration.

The President has a great deal to worry about, however Clinton v Jones is decided. That is but one of many ethical troubles hanging over the White House. Judge Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel investigating who is White (which now includes several other areas of inquiry), is likely to begin issuing new indictments at any moment, possibly reaching as high as the First Lady, Hillary Clinton. Moreover, the allegations of campaign finance irregularities look increasingly serious. And even if the Supreme Court should agree that the President is entitled to immunity from lawsuits while in office, Mrs Jones is not going to go away. She will eventually have her day in court and the world will finally have a better idea of what took place in the Excelsior Hotel back in 1991.

The more enduring question, however, and the most important issue at stake in Clinton v Jones, is whether the presidency will be constitutionally stronger or weaker as a result of the case. The answer could affect the exercise of presidential power and leadership both at home and abroad.

The author is director of the Institute of United States Studies in London.



## Tough talk wastes lives

The fashion for 'zero tolerance' is just as intolerable as intolerance

All together now, narrow your eyes, square your shoulders, raise one fist and repeat the magic words. Tough, uncompromising, discipline, clampdown, enforcement, curfew, homework! Push it through ruthlessly, no holds barred! No half-measures, no excuses, zero tolerance. String 'em up! That's the only language they understand.

Harshness, as a fashion editor might put it, is the new navy blue. Simply essential. No longer is barking intolerance the private hobby of beet-faced old colonels in the remotest shires. Just as tweed jackets and jodhpurs periodically become City fashion, so a mania for discipline has swept across the most unlikely terrain. This spring's essential ideological accessories are the authoritarian bark, the slap of hunting-crop on powerful thigh, the satisfying *snapt* of the no-nonsense mantrap.

As the election creeps closer, tough talk and expressions of ruthless intolerance are a political craze. The competition is to be harsher-than-thou, and put shark-infested water between yourself and accusations of wet liberalism. Goodbye Mr Chips, hello Mr Gradgrind; goodbye Dock Green, hello Singapore. The Ship of State right now is represented by the prison hulk *Resolution*, to be moored in Portland Harbour amid a tangle of razor-wire. For, as Professor Charles "Underclass" Murray told us in *The Sunday Times* with modish glee, "Prison does work if it is used with sufficient ruthlessness". Up and at 'em, sir! Thrash 'em within an inch of their lives, then ask questions!

No politician can afford to be left out. If Mr Major says beggars are an eyesore, Mr Blair must invoke zero tolerance and brag that he never gives a bean. Whereon David MacLean must demand they be hosed off the streets. If the Conservatives get tough with teachers, belabouring them with bossy directives and then accusing them of feigning ill-health to get early retirement, it is no longer instinctive for Labour to take their part, however cautiously. Instead, we must have a spiel from Tony Blair explaining how fierce he would be with underqualified heads, and how Labour would set homework at a national minimum of 90 minutes. He has not yet promised shock troops with powers to break into your house and check that children don't finish in 85 minutes, but give him time. If nobody dare be seen with his fists

unclenched, proper debate and democracy are at risk. The new Police Bill — containing unprecedented and startling powers of secret surveillance — has been opposed by Liberal Democrats and by senior lawyers, but only now is the main opposition party raising muted, unwilling resistance to it. Labour has also been strangely silent about the plans to build secure units for 12 to 14-year-old children who are repeated, rather than violent, offenders, with opaque windows, strip cells, minimal family contact and staff trained in security, not childcare. One peep of alarm at this and Michael Howard would cry "soft on crime!" and the game would be up.

To a degree, this tendency has always been present in Britain. One MP I know, a gentle philosopher, once vowed never again to go on *Any Questions* because of the predictable way that you could raise a cheer by "lifting your voice at the end of a sentence advocating severity towards children, criminals or dogs". But this goes farther: it is now considered electoral suicide to express even the smallest, most apologetic compassion, tolerance, or libertarianism. These are now dirty words.

The craze spreads ever outwards: riffling idly through the past week's newspapers I find tough talk everywhere. The security industry has invented face-mapping CCTV cameras that can recognise convicted shoplifters and alert the management to chuck them out, whether or not they are acting suspiciously. Hired security firms are brought in to break up road protest camps, and local authorities brag of giving draconian powers to car-clampers, who then behave as unreasonably as they like. Meanwhile everyone must tell tales: the National Union of Teachers tells its members to report any parents who use their vouchers to go to private nurseries (fuss guess who might later have trouble getting into their choice of state school? Snooping in general is a growth activity, with

100 anonymous telephone lines now enabling citizens to zero-tolerance one another over everything from benefit fraud to breaking housewife bans.

Back at Westminster, everybody agrees to be tough with Europe, with examination boards. A-level candidates, scroungers, hooligans, BBC interviewers and one another. Labour has hired a chap from Australia to gather information so it can get tough on Tory candidates who do dreadful things like going to nightclubs or fail to have girlfriends. Zero tolerance! If you spot a head, any head, above the parapet, slap it down!

Or, at least, pledge to slap it down. The amazing thing is that in the main we are complete and utter weeds, and so are our leaders. Like the Wizard of Oz we roar our threats through a megaphone behind a

rickety screen. Look closer and you will find that the British — Tories and all — are a dreadfully sentimental, hesitant, marshmallow-hearted, kindly lot, obsessed with the most unlikely "victims" and "traumas" and demanding counselling for every real and imagined slight. Most of this tough talking, in Westminster and out, is pure bluster. Just as the cable who says "string 'em up" would be unwilling to take over the criminal justice system and personally man the gallows, few of these verbal muggers have the stomach for action. They may press, demand, inveigh, expose, tell tales, express "passion", issue guidelines or even mess about a bit with legislation but when it comes to the crunch they do not want anything much to change. Tough talk is cheap and instantly effective; tough action is complicated, strenuous, often expensive, and leads to moral and practical dilemmas where bluster is no longer of any use.

For an example, take the two main parties' carbon-copy pledges to sweep every kind of disorder from the streets. Ask the police in King's Cross whether that is possible. They will laugh at you. If any government really wanted the police to enforce the

letter of the law at all times, it would have to increase their numbers and their cell capacity enormously and — equally important — cut savagely back on the absurd amount of paperwork that now accompanies any arrest or caution. The burden of form-filling and report-writing is now so heavy (largely because of the Whitehall hunger for statistics and the police dread of being sued) that no copper with a sense of self-preservation is ever going to use vigorous enforcement when persuasion and a blind eye will just about do.

And secretly, of course, this is the way politicians want it. They know that any real "clampdown" or "zero tolerance" would cause the very press that has bayed for action to find itself outraged and writing the policies bear with whimpering tales of poor young lads and cruel policemen and public money "wasted" by police on "persecuting" innocent citizens. I suppose you could say that this evened out into a moderate, pragmatic approach to policing, but it seems a long (and risky) way round to get there.

It is the same in every field: education, administration, law enforcement, economics. Intelligent action is slower, more careful, more complicated and far less interesting to watch than wild bluster. But, because of the infernally slow approach of this election, we are stuck with bluster. It is one, more reason to wish it over.

I know I always come back to schoolchildren, an obsession brought on by seeing so much of them. But I am irresistibly reminded of an experiment conducted at a former and not very good school by a group of my son's contemporaries. They were bored with being constantly told in Assembly about the importance of tidiness and pride in the uniform, especially in the matter of polished shoes. They decided being given printed cards of such rules to carry round with them. So they tried polishing their shoes for a whole term, just to see what happened.

As they had suspected, it was all Assembly hot air and prospectus puffery. Not one teacher ever noticed or commented, still less went to the trouble of enforcing and supervising a polish in break-time. They were all too busy diving off to the staffroom, said the children. So nothing changed, except that the children's respect for the staff sank even lower. Remind you of anything?

## Libby Purves

## Damn dames

GREASEPAINT is running at the Janus Theatre Group in Peterborough, where they are having to dump Paul Stone, who recently alleged a relationship with Jerry Hayes, MP, from his role as pantomime dame.

Stone, who is said to be buying a flat in London with the proceeds of his newspaper deals, was due to star in *Puss in Boots* next month, having played Widow Scratchitt in *Sinbad the Sailor* last year.

"I thought I'd better get in touch after all this," he said yesterday, "so I contacted them only to be told I'd been replaced. I think it's a bit naughty but I suppose it's understandable."

Stone was speaking from the offices of his public relations adviser, Max Clifford, who was recovering from his dust-up on the *Kilroy* show with the MP Roger Gale.

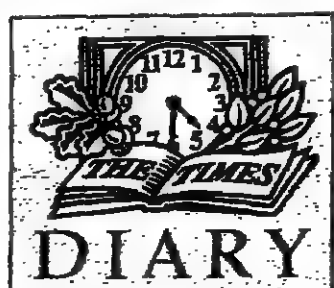
Clifford, a fit man who plays tennis and swims regularly, had allegedly tried to punch Gale just before the show was due to go on air, although he denies this. "I was just disappointed that the show did not have Jerry Hayes and David Mellor on it so I could argue with them," he said. "And I find Roger

Gale repulsive. Everybody thought I was going to have a go at him and people were trying to pull me back. I was very angry but I just wanted to square up to him and look him in the eye."

● Touring the world with his new film *Romeo and Juliet*, Baz Luhrmann, the Australian director, found himself standing at the



"Is there any chance of your rejoining the England team, Bishop Sheppard?"



back of a cinema preview of his movie in Sydney. Another man sidled up behind him on the back wall. "Mate you're a bit bored too, eh?" said the man. "I can't stand all this Shakespeare stuff. Didn't want to see it at all. My wife dragged me along." Before a dumb-struck Luhrmann could reply, the man had wandered out.

### Losing track

PERSISTENCE overcame prudence in Denmark the other day when a man sank four vehicles trying to cross a frozen ford. First off, his car went through the ice at Augustenborg, 120 miles southwest of Copenhagen.

The water was shallow, so he was able to get out. Then he tried to pull the car out with a four-wheel-drive vehicle, but that promptly

sank too. He tried again, this time with a tractor, but it stuck too. Farmers were obviously keen now to lend him tractors, so summarily another he drove that onto the ice as well. Guess what? The ice cracked and this tractor was also sunk. National rescue services spent seven hours undoing the mess.

### Wrong one

HARD LUCK case of the day is Jane Winder, the director of One World Action, a Third World development agency founded by

Glenys Kinnock. Winder has misdirected her CV to a Liberal Democrat MP, "Dear Don Foster," she writes, though clearly meaning to address Derek Foster, the senior Labour MP for Bishop Auckland, rather than Don Foster, the Lib Dem MP for Bath. "Brenda Dean has advised me to send you a copy of my CV. When Labour is elected I hope that there will be opportunities for supporters to serve on public bodies and would be very glad if my name could be considered." So much then for all of Labour's pious criticism of the Tories for appointing sympathisers to their quangos.

● My report yesterday of how Dorey Russell danced thrillingly at the Royal Opera House on Saturday despite suffering the flu had her cast in Swan Lake, not *The Sleeping Beauty*, as was the case. The flu has clearly got to PHS too.

### Pole vaunt

EAGEREST beaver among the ministerial class has to be Michael Bates, MP, who was recently appointed to replace David Willetts as Paymaster General. When asked what he would like in the way of decoration for his office, he asked for a Union Jack on a pole, so he can sit in front of it in traditional African dictator fashion. The



Jemima and Sulaiman

Department of National Heritage supplied him with the ornament.

● A mere two weeks after arriving in his native country, and six weeks after his arrival in the world, Master Sulaiman, the son of Imran Khan and Jemima Goldsmith, has already visited his local barber in Lahore. In keeping with Islamic custom, his head was shaved last week at a ceremony in the family home.

P.H.S.

## Europe's Eastern sceptics

Anatole Kaletsky says integration has failed before

What is the future of Europe? integration or disintegration? Over the weekend I was asked to address this question at the Central European University in Budapest, before an audience of 60 newspaper editors and proprietors from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Naturally, I objected to the way the question was phrased. Are integration and disintegration the only possibilities for Europe? There are plenty of other rhetorical pairings: centralisation or decentralisation; uniformity or diversity; rigidity or flexibility. Or let us try something more dramatic: imperial oppression versus national liberation.

A shocked murmur went round the audience when I spoke these words. These people had been fighting for generations for national liberation — not only from the Soviet Union, but before that from the Nazis, the Habsburgs, the Ottomans, the Kaisers, the Mongols and the Tsars. The European Union is infinitely more benign than any of the previous efforts to unite all or part of Europe. It is liberal, prosperous, peaceful and more or less democratic. But does this imply that people who have fought for centuries for the right to call themselves Hungarians, Latvians, Poles or, for that matter, Frenchmen or Germans, will suddenly start to think of themselves as Europeans?

In Western Europe the answer is clearly no. France, Italy and Spain, to say nothing of Britain and the Scandinavian countries, have fought tooth and nail for their national interests in Brussels. Even in Germany, where pan-European idealism is the norm in political rhetoric, the EU has been presented as a natural extension of Germany's benign ideals: an orderly, regulated, federal system of social partnership closely modelled on the postwar German state.

It is this familiar enough, but what surprised me in Budapest was the growing confidence of the Central Europeans. They too now feel that they have legitimate national aspirations and can demand adjustments from the EU to suit them. Countries where unregulated small businesses are providing nearly all of the new jobs and economic growth are suddenly starting to worry about the costs of complying with Brussels regulations. The East Europeans are disillusioned by Western Europe's economic sclerosis. They contrast Europe's abject failure to bring peace to Bosnia with America's success.

Europe — and Germany in particular — no longer looks like the shining beacon of hope. And now that Germany is making it ever clearer that it will keep Eastern Europe out of the agricultural single market in order to protect Bavarian farmers, the Hungarians and Poles are gaining the confidence to say that they will have full EU membership or none at all.

As soon as the question of joining Europe becomes a matter of cost-benefit analysis rather than historical inevitability, much bigger questions follow. If EU membership no longer looks necessary for national survival, is it as desirable as everyone had assumed? If countries like Poland, Hungary and even tiny Slovakia begin to feel they might be able to survive as independent nations in a peaceful Eurasian continent, why should they subsume themselves once again in a superstate? Perhaps they would do better by sheltering under the Nato military umbrella, negotiating global arrangements for freer trading and then seeking their fortunes in the wider world?

The rapidly growing countries of Eastern Europe, which have contributed as much to our common culture as any other continental region, are likely to remain outside the core of Franco-German integration, there may be huge implications for other peripheral regions of Europe: Scandinavia, the Mediterranean and the British Isles. Britain, in particular, might do both itself and Eastern Europe a favour by standing aside from Franco-German integration, and so adding to the influence, power and the average prosperity of the European periphery to which it historically and geographically belongs.

That English is now clearly and irrevocably the *Lingua franca* of Eastern as well as Western Europe, adds another powerful dimension to the case for Britain to welcome the creation of a flexible, diverse and deregulated European periphery around the more highly ordered and integrated Franco-German core.

It is probably now pointless for Britain, Poland or any other country to try to impede or dissuade the Germans, French and Belgians from creating a tightly organised European superstate. But the countries that stand back from European integration need not deny their European cultures or turn their backs on Europe. Amongst who has studied calculus — one of the unquestionable and universal achievements of European culture — should know that disintegration is not the only antonym of integration. In calculus the opposite of integration is differentiation. In history, as in mathematics, both these processes are difficult but hugely enriching.





## A BILL TOO FAR

Judges, not chief constables, should safeguard rights

Moderation in the pursuit of justice can be a virtue. Few politicians have been as energetic in overhauling the criminal justice system as Michael Howard but his zeal in the right cause has led him into error. Although the most clamorous opposition has been directed at the Crime (Sentences) Bill, which received its third reading yesterday, it is a different piece of legislation that is flawed. Mr Howard's proposals for mandatory minimum sentences are a measured response to public disquiet with the prevalence of violent crime and the punishment dispensed by the courts. A similar determination to balance the scales of justice after years skewed in favour of the criminal is held to justify the Police Bill. It does not. The Bill, in its present form, trespasses too heavily on British traditions of liberty. It must not pass, unamended, into law.

The Bill will allow the police to force entry and install surveillance equipment in order to gather evidence — to "bug and bungle". The extension of similar powers to law enforcement agencies in America significantly helped in the fight against racketeering. Such powers could, properly exercised, help to combat organised crime here. Without proper guarantees, however, these powers could be abused by a police force tempted to stretch the law too far in its desire to ensnare the criminal.

By allowing senior police officers to authorise forced entry without application to a judge, the Bill unacceptably erodes the division between the pursuer of the criminal and the upholder of justice. Officers under pressure to apprehend are bound to be less sensitive to the rights of the individual than a judge. The retrospective scrutiny promised is not enough. The arguments for issuing a warrant should be tested in front of a judge, not run under a chief constable's nose.

The Bill's defenders maintain that the legislation simply puts on a statutory basis a practice already commonplace among government agencies but governed only by executive discretion. That is not so. The

Police Bill would render evidence admissible which, if acquired by similar means at the moment, could not be used in open court. If evidence gained by such exceptional means is to be admitted in court rather than reviewed in private, then the propriety of acquiring it covertly should be considered by a judge, not decided by the police.

Those who support the Bill also argue, in its defence, that the operational good sense of a senior officer is to be preferred to the wisdom of a judge. They maintain that courts in the past have not exerted themselves to check the police's appetite for acquiring evidence by all available means. Since the Police and Criminal Evidence Act allowed officers to request the handover of journalistically acquired material, such as footage of rioters, the courts have routinely acquiesced in police applications.

Such an argument betrays a misunderstanding of the rule of law, by looking at outcomes not processes. It also misses the main point. The very fact of having to apply to a judge before police officers can use indiscriminate applications. Even if judges are inclined to extend the benefit of the doubt to the police, the act of asking should ensure that the police attempt to exercise their powers sparingly.

The Bill is flawed not only in delegating to chief police officers the authority to exercise powers so intrusive but also in allowing them such broad grounds in justification. As drafted, the Bill permits the police to deploy these powers in fighting "serious" crime. But it defines what is serious in a manner so loose as to invite abuse. Parliament must ensure that the Bill reaches the statute book with the nature of the crimes which justify such exceptional powers carefully delineated so the courts can ensure that measures designed to pursue criminal Napoleons are not disproportionately deployed. The power, resourcefulness and malice of organised criminals require an imaginative response but should not provoke an excessive one. The Police Bill is, as it stands, a Bill too far.

## ANGOLA'S AGONY

The prospects of improvement are real but slim

The visit by Diana, Princess of Wales, to Angola comes at a critical moment in this devastated country's attempt to end its long agony. In nine days, Angola is due to form a government of national reconciliation, to bring together the MPLA Government of President dos Santos and UNITA, the former rebel group led by Jonas Savimbi. Yesterday Thabo Mbeki, the South African Deputy President, flew to Luanda to brief the Government on the meeting last week between Mr Savimbi and President Mandela — the first time the guerrilla leader has agreed to hold talks with the new rulers of the country that used to provide him with arms and covert support. And in the next few days there are hopes that some 70 UNITA MPs, elected in the 1992 election, will finally take their seats in the Luanda Parliament.

This flurry of diplomatic activity has been bolstered by outsiders. Britain has promised to do what it can to bolster the fragile peace. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, met Mr dos Santos last week. The European Union has offered \$17 million in humanitarian aid. And the Princess has, by her visit, drawn attention to the scourge of some 12 million landmines, more in number than the total population of Angola, which maim about 25 people a day and have ruined huge tracts of valuable farming land.

Yet the chances for peace remain slim. The abiding distrust between the Government and UNITA led to the breakdown of the earlier ceasefire. Mr Savimbi, who still dreams of absolute power, was largely to blame for the

fighting after 1992, when he refused to accept the election results. The conflict has laid waste entire towns, with hundreds of thousands of civilians dying of starvation or from bombardment. Mr Savimbi has good reason to fear that he and his supporters would be massacred in Luanda. Darkening the outlook further is the incompetence, venality and corruption of the dos Santos Government. No figures are available, but aid agencies and United Nations observers reckon that the President and his cronies have embezzled at least \$4 billion of the country's oil income.

This bleak picture may soon get worse, for the UN is due to pull out its 6,600-strong force next month. Almost all Angolans forecast a rapid return to civil war, especially if there are no elections to underpin a new government of national unity with popular legitimacy. The UN operation has achieved a measure of stability in the past two years. Currently the largest in the world and including Britons in the verification and ceasefire observation units, it is leaving because it has run out of money. Only a small token force will remain — too small to be of use and depressingly similar to the original UN mission. Without stability, mine clearance cannot easily go ahead, nor can landless farmers be fed or employed. Until that happens, the economic and political ruin of a potentially rich country will remain incurable. If the UN aborts its mission half-done, it might as well have washed its hands of Angola in the first place. The country's suffering will continue.

## LOBSTER CHECKOUT

What happens when the claws go scampering down the aisle?

Supermarkets are democratic benefits. They pile the luxuries of the world into the plastic bags of the shopper. But in the case of lobsters, supermarkets are tackling a luxury that is problematic as well as rare. Their debate about whether to sell live lobsters makes animal welfare campaigners see red.

Although banned by Moses, probably on hygienic grounds for a nomadic desert tribe, the lobster has been a delicacy for many ages and cultures. But the unhygienic danger of a bad lobster makes cooks recommend that it be bought live and then killed. Since Mrs Beeton they have insisted that lobsters be plunged alive into boiling water. "Choose those that are full of motion, which is an indication of their freshness."

This recipe was practicable in great kitchens and for less squeamish societies. Roman gourmets added spice to their meal by watching lobster and red mullet change colour in their death throes. But this more sensitive age rightly deplores cruelty to creatures, even those which, because of cannibalistic tendencies, cannot be farmed. Modern kitchens are ill-equipped with fish-kettles and weights to keep their lids on. And cooks are distressed by the turbulence made by a lobster and the hiss of air escaping from its carapace in what sounds like a scream.

A humane method of cooking lobster would ease the tender conscience while still gratifying the taste. The proposal that lobsters be rendered insensible in the equivalent of a slowly heating sauna raises the question whether anybody would prefer

to be fried slowly rather than plunged into boiling oil. The British Universities Federation for Animal Welfare recommends freezing lobsters to death before boiling. A celebrated Oxford professor has devoted time and skill to inventing a painless lobster-killer. This would work, fittingly, by pinners made to electrocute the central nervous system of the lobster. The difficulty in less expert kitchens would be the same as with trepanning by skewer. Amateurs, separated from the methods that bring their food to the supermarket, would not know where to locate the lobster's nervous system, and might lack the resolution to make the plunge.

And will lobsters in the supermarket have a "kill-by" date? On which antenna will their bar codes be marked? How will the checkout cashier cope with an item as full of crustacean motion as recommended? And what panic will break out when the ragged claws escape to scuttle down the aisle? At least there is no prospect of meat being sold on the hoof in the supermarket, yet.

When asked why he walked a lobster on a blue ribbon in the Palais Royal, Gérard de Nerval replied: "I have a taste for lobsters. They are peaceful, serious creatures. They know the secrets of the sea. And they don't bark." Shoppers with a less refined taste for lobsters may soon find them in Waitrose as well as the Palais Royal. But those who prefer to turn a blind eye to their diet should get an assistant to do the deed. This will still be done by plunging the lobster into boiling water. But behind the counter.

## Party loyalties and the Police Bill

From Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, and others

Sir, The Police Bill now before the House of Lords (letters, January 8 and 10) makes provision to regulate the use of intrusive surveillance techniques by the police and Customs. Clause 9(1) provides: "No entry on or interference with property or wireless telegraphy shall be unlawful if it is authorised under this section."

An authorising officer — normally a chief constable — may authorise any such action if he or she thinks that it is likely to be of substantial value in the prevention or detection of serious crime and that the objective cannot reasonably be achieved by other means. There is a wide definition of "serious crime" which refers, for instance, to conduct by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose.

Police and Customs bugging operations are presently governed by administrative arrangements of dubious validity, so, in principle, statutory regulation is welcome. But the exercise of the power needs firm and clear safeguards. The most obvious safeguard is that the power should be authorised only by a judge and not by a police officer, however senior.

That is why Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank (letter, January 10) moved an amendment in the House of Lords, requiring an exercise of the power to be authorised by a circuit judge.

We believe that this part of the Bill, if it were allowed to stand as now worded, represents a serious threat to the liberties of the citizens of Britain.

We believe that this is not just a party issue. Many Labour peers were unhappy that they were instructed not to support Lord Rodgers' amendment. We hope that the strength of criticism of Clause 9 and its obvious inconsistency with the European Convention on Human Rights will persuade the Labour leadership to change its position.

Many individual peers taking the Conservative whip will recognise that Clause 9, as it now stands, runs counter to the best traditions of their party. We hope that both they and the cross-benches will support the amendment. It needs to be passed by a majority large enough and broad enough to persuade the Government to accept it.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY LESTER (President),  
DAVID IVE (Chairman),  
WILLIAM GOODHART,  
Liberal Democrat Lawyers  
Association,  
26 Erskine Hill, NW11,  
January 10.

## Immigration rules

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Home Office

Sir, Your correspondents Ruth Gledhill and Michael Gove (January 10) reflect earlier reports suggesting that there had been a change of policy with regard to Scientists who may seek to enter the United Kingdom as ministers of religion, missionaries or members of religious orders.

I should like to clarify the position. There has been no change. The Government's position remains as stated by the then Home Secretary in 1980. Science is not regarded as a religion for the purposes of the immigration rules. Scientists will not therefore qualify under those provisions of the immigration rules relating to ministers of religion, missionaries or members of religious orders.

Yours sincerely,  
TIMOTHY KIRKHOPE,  
Home Office,  
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,  
January 10.

## Public grief

From Sir Anthony Beaumont-Dark

Sir, Murders of young people are, unhappily, not rare in our society and the suffering of parents is unimaginable to most of us.

I do, however, wonder if it really is necessary for those truly wretched people's grief to be put on public display by the police (report, January 8). They do not need to undergo this ordeal for all of us want to help find the killers. Humanity surely demands help for the grieving, not for them to be on public show as the terrible nightmare engulfs them.

Your obedient servant,  
ANTHONY BEAUMONT-DARK,  
124 Lady Byron Lane,  
Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands.

## Albanian opportunity

From Mr Donald J. Stewart

Sir, I find it difficult to reconcile Misha Gleny's assertion (article, January 3) that Albania, *inter alia*, suffers under the arbitrary rule of a political and economic mafia with my own recent experience in that country.

Over the past 18 months I have assisted the governing Democratic Party of Albania with its election preparations, attending meetings in many parts of the country, some of

hundreds of rank-and-file DPA members, others purely for local and national leaders. Without exception these have been conducted in a fully democratic manner which could, to beneficial effect, be emulated in many quarters of the UK.

Since 1991 the Albanian Parliament has been drafting laws in order to regulate, from scratch, life in a democratic and orderly manner and to release the economic energies of the people. Its success, despite fears a year ago after the backtracking in other newly independent Eastern European countries, was demonstrated in last year's parliamentary and local government elections.

The latter, observed by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, amply corroborated the re-

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Diet fads, from good sense to 'bumbling quackishness'

From Dr Julia Ellis and Professor Paul J. Ciclitira

Sir, Gudrun Jonsson ("I lost weight and cleared my mind", Health, January 6) advocates food-combining to combat "toxic gut", which apparently causes obesity and constipation. No such syndrome exists. The premise that digestive enzymes needed for breakdown of proteins and carbohydrates neutralise each other, leaving foods in the gut to ferment, is untrue.

We are told that because these enzymes neutralise each other food is not digested. Were this the case the outcome would be malabsorption, diarrhoea and starvation, not obesity and constipation.

That Ms Jonsson's prescribed diet of oat cakes, vegetable stock and stir-fry vegetables leads to weight loss and increased bowel frequency is hardly surprising: it is the high-fibre, low-fat regime that most nutritionists would advocate. The combination in which food is eaten is an irrelevance.

In the article on acid balance ("Put yourself into neutral for a healthier life", January 7) the normal functioning of the healthy kidney is used to indicate poor health. The presence of acid urine indicates healthy kidney function to maintain body pH balance. There are a few rare conditions in which the kidney cannot produce an acid urine and this results in acidosis.

A consequence of this may be stripping of calcium from the bones, resulting not in osteoporosis as stated, but in osteomalacia — loss of bone calcium. However, these are serious con-

ditions resulting from kidney disease or damage, not from dietary intake of "acid" foods. Such conditions require treatment by a nephrologist, not fiddling around with the diet.

By the way, in the table of bad acid foods, wheat products, especially pasta, featured largely. Deborah Bull's sensible article opposite describes how her new diet, which included large quantities of bread and pasta, has changed her life. What are your readers to think?

Yours faithfully,  
J. H. ELLIS,  
PAUL J. CICLITIRA,  
St Thomas' Hospital,  
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1,  
January 7.

From Miss Jasmine Challis, SRD

Sir, Vegetables such as broccoli and asparagus are not rich sources of starch as your interview with Peter Bartlett (January 7) says: they contain only a trace. And to achieve the estimated average protein requirement for a man for a day would need some 4kg (9lb) of cabbage.

You quote Mr Bartlett as saying that artificial milk contains a much higher protein level than human milk and may thus cause osteoporosis in babies. But baby-formula milks are modified to mimic the protein level of human milk.

Yours faithfully,  
JASMINE CHALLIS,  
19 Kewick Close,  
Tilhurst, Reading, Berkshire,  
January 7.

## Monarchy debate

From Mr Saroj K. Chakravarty

Sir, In February 1992, the Prince of Wales was invited to speak to a conference of international businessmen in Davos, Switzerland. In his speech, he appealed to all businessmen not just to make money for themselves but also for society as a whole. He was given about 20 minutes' standing ovation.

A few days later he went to New Delhi, to another conference, jointly organised by the CBI and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), at which the president of the CII paid tribute to him by saying: "The thoughts and ideas expressed by you at Davos, were those of a prophet."

Any international businessman will tell you how many billions of pounds' worth of business come Britain's way because of the involvement of the Royal Family. When foreigners love and respect them so much, why then do we the British rethink sitting in judgment of them (letters, January 9, 10, 11)?

I can think of at least one reason. We are living in the age of Spitting

Image, and have no heroes. Even God comes out as a Selfridges grotto Santa. We have come to love humiliating and taking the mickey out of our national leaders and high achievers.

Yours etc,  
SAROJ K. CHAKRAVARTY,  
Minal,  
35 The Avenue, Beckenham, Kent,  
January 8.

From Sir Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, I can think of one way in which the Prince can improve his image at a stroke: follow the admirable examples of his mother and his mistress by putting up the shutters on the media.

That way he might not only regain respect but also some of the dignity of kingship which he lost after repeated surrenders to television. Surely there is a case for monarchs-in-waiting as well as monarchs to be seen but rarely heard.

Yours etc,  
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,  
Ashdown,  
Avebury, Wiltshire,  
January 12.

## Oxbridge entry

From Mr Anthony Lejeune

Sir, What I find so depressing about the Oxbridge establishment's views on admissions (report, January 2) also letter, January 8) is their apparently unanimous assumption that the objective should be a completely meritocratic (in an academic sense) college.

What they should be, and are in fact, inevitably doing, is creating a community where the new entrants will be lifelong members and where young people will grow up, make friends and learn much more than appears on any lecture list.

For this purpose family and school connections, as well as other non-academic criteria, are highly relevant.

Yours etc,  
ANTHONY LEJEUNE,  
Lane End, Hillside Road,  
Pinner Hill, Middlesex,  
January 8.

## European currency

From Mr J. B. MacGill

Sir, Thirty years ago, when a committee on the decimalisation of our currency had the option of choosing the pound or the ten shilling as our new major unit, they chose the pound, even though had they chosen the ten shilling all our then existing silver coins could have continued in use.

One of the reasons they gave was that they expected inflation would so reduce the value of the chosen unit that it was essential to start with as large a unit as possible. It meant that when our decimal coinage was introduced we had need of a halfpenny coin, but inflation has eliminated it, as the committee expected.

Only about 60 years ago there were

## Churchill and gas

From Mr Norman Gelb

Sir, Winston Churchill's lack of "squeamishness" about possible British use of poison gas in warfare was not — as your report of January 3 might imply — confined to the First World War period.

File CAB 65/7 at the Public Record Office at Kew reveals that in the early months of the Second World War Churchill suggested to the War Cabinet that, though proscribed by international law, poison gas should be used against invading German forces if they successfully managed to land on the then thinly defended British coast. He said Britain had the right to do what it liked on its own territory.

Sincerely,  
NORMAN GELB (Author,  
*Dunkirk*, Michael Joseph, 1989),  
107 Hurlingham Road, SW6,  
January 5.

nearly a thousand farthings to a pound, such was the size of a pound then as a currency. Yet now Europe contemplates adopting a unit which is not even as large as our present pound. A few days ago I paid "ten shillings" for half a loaf of bread; how soon may we expect to pay ten euros?

When Chancellor Kohl suggested that the major unit of the new currency should be called a euro instead of an ecu he should have also said "and one euro will be worth ten ecus". Such a unit should last at least halfway through the next century before it may need renewing.

Yours faithfully,  
J. B. MACGILL,  
The Wilderness,  
St George's Lane, Ascot, Berkshire,  
January 1.

Yours faithfully,  
DONALD J. STEWART,  
90 Ebury Street, SW1,  
January 6.

The disappointment for the UK is that so few of its companies are joining in the development of the country where opportunities are legion — the French, German, Italians, even Saudi Arabians are all hard at work.

Yours faithfully,  
DONALD J. STEWART,  
90 Ebury Street, SW1,  
January 6.

Business letters, page 31

From Mr Robert A. Morley

Sir, You demonstrate most effectively the bumbling quackishness of food science. Of the two diet regimes featured today one requires a rigid balance between carbohydrates, fat and protein in each meal, the other insists that starch (a carbohydrate) must not be eaten at the same time as protein.

Sir, our granules had it right — and far more economically in words: a little of what you fancy does you good.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT A. MORLEY,  
25 Rectory Road,  
Southport, Merseyside,  
January 6.

From Mrs P. Greenly

Sir, Great stress is laid these days upon the need for regular exercise, such as a short brisk walk, to ensure the wellbeing of people of mature years.

I have no quarrel with this advice provided one is able to follow it. My husband and I both suffer from arthritis, particularly in the knees and ankles, and while we would dearly like to take a daily walk, are unable to do so.

Can we in future have less emphasis on the brisk walk routine and more about general exercise to suit all people.

Yours faithfully,  
P. GREENLY,  
Brunton House,  
175 Goldthorn Hill, Penn,  
Wolverhampton, West Midlands,  
January 10.

## Adoption and fostering

From Professor Emeritus Thomas Stapleton

Sir, It is good that the question of adoption is again being scrutinised (letters, January 1, 7, 13). For many years, I have felt that there is a strong case for something in between fostering and adoption.

While the adopted child becomes the permanent responsibility of the adopting parent, usually taking their name, fostering placements can be revoked at any time. Even when placements have lasted so long as to be virtually permanent, the anxiety of removal remains.

If fostering could sometimes be made permanent, so that the child could only be removed under the same kind of circumstances that would apply to a natural-born child, many of the problems in the adoption of older children and inter-country adoptions would, in my view, be avoided. The child would retain his or her own family name, so any pretence of the child being the natural child of the carers could not occur.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
THOMAS STAPLETON,  
The Foundry Cottage, Lane End,  
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire,  
January 7.

## Honours due

From Mr E. J. Blease

Sir, Mr Charles Swallow expresses concern (letter, January 6) that teachers are rarely in the honours lists.

Why should anyone, teacher, civil servant or industrialist, expect or indeed receive such honours for carrying out that for which he/she has probably been adequately paid, and could be in line for enhanced pensions and excellent severance deals?

Civilian awards for conspicuous acts or for unpaid, voluntary efforts by all means, but not for carrying out one side of an employment agreement.

Yours faithfully,  
E. J. BLEASE,  
27 Dewland Park Road,  
Newport, Gwent,  
January 7.

## Hands across the sea

From Mr David J. M. Buddery

Sir, Morse signalling, whether by flag, lamp or radio, remains the most reliable means of communication (letters, January 4 and 9). Unfortunately this is almost a lost art which a few enthusiasts, mostly radio amateurs, struggle to preserve.

What a pity the Radio Authority fails to encourage such use by not issuing special licences to those able to demonstrate a high standard of proficiency in this technique.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID J. M. BUDDERY  
(Senior instructor,  
amateur radio novices),  
33 Addison Road,  
Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk,  
January 4.

## Pride before a squall

From Dr Kenneth Swinburne

Sir, Few men will be surprised to learn that women's brain shrink during pregnancy (report, January 9). After all, women have been complaining about this for aeons.

A question of greater importance for medical scientists is whether men's brains undergo a compensatory swelling.

Yours sincerely,  
KENNETH SWINBURNE,  
16 Foxhill Crescent,  
Leeds, West Yorkshire,  
January 9.



## COURT CIRCULAR

**SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK**  
January 12: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning left Royal Air Force Marham for Stockholm to attend the funeral of Prince Bertil of Sweden.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
January 13: The Prince of Wales today visited Edinburgh and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milgrom) and the Rt Hon the Lord Provost.

**Today's royal engagements**  
The Princess Royal will attend a luncheon to mark the centenary year of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Scotland, Glasgow City Chambers, at 12.30, and as President, Animal Health Trust, will attend a dinner for the US Supporters Club, Buck's, London W1, at 7.30.

**Edward Ram**  
A Service of Thanksgiving for Ned Ram will be held at noon on Tuesday, January 21, 1997, at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street.

**Reception**  
The Royal Academy of Engineering Sir David Davies, CBE, FRS, President of The Royal Academy of Engineering, and Lady Davies, will be the hosts at a reception for Sir David Davies and his guests at 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1, last night. Professor John Burland, FRS, a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, will be the guest of honour at a reception for Sir David Davies and his guests at 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1, last night.

**Birthdays today**  
Captain Sir Alastair Aird, Private Secretary to the Queen Mother 66; Professor Sir Melville Amott, cardiologist, 88; Mr Peter Barlow, actor, 68; Mr Richard Briers, actor, 63; Baroness Brooke of Ystradgheola, 89; Baroness Byford, 80; Lord Catto, 74; the Earl of Drogheda, 80; Miss Faye Dunaway, actress, 50; Miss Marina Gledhill, ballerina, 52; Miss Andrea Grenfell, former managing director, Glenlivet, 49; Miss Sophie Harlow, fashion designer, 32; Sir Martin Holdgate, president, Zoological Society of London, 60; Sir Arthur Hoole, former president, Law Society, 73; Professor Sir Hans Korn-

**Study Support Conference at the**  
The Prince of Wales later visited Phase One improvements to the Royal Mile at Mercat Cross.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
January 13: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Patron, The Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom, this afternoon attended a ceremony for the presentation of awards to students of the Royal College of Nursing Institute, at the Barbican Hall, London EC2.

**Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers**  
The following have been installed officers of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers Company for the ensuing year: Mr Nigel S. Nichols, First Warden, Mr Peter H.E. Padley-Smith, Second Warden, Mr George A. Smith, Treasurer, Mr Warden, Mr Keith P. Kirby, Fourth Warden, Mr Peter Varran, Treasurer.

**Dinners**  
Sir Anthony Kenny was the speaker at a talk dinner held last night at the Alderbury. Mr Kenneth Baker, CH, MP, was in the chair.

**Cardiff Business Club**  
The President of Cardiff Business Club, Sir Idwal Pugh, the Lord-Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Captain N. Lloyd Edwards, the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor R. Phillips and the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr D.P.V. Rees were present at a dinner held by the Club at the Park Hotel, Cardiff, last night. The guest speaker was Mr Graham Hughes, Chief Executive, Hyder plc. Mr Hywel Jones, Chairman, West Region, Coopers & Lybrand, presided.

## School news

**Canford School**  
The Easter Term began yesterday. Scholarship examinations will be held from Monday, February 24, to Thursday, February 27. The Old Canfordian Society would be particularly interested to hear from former pupils with whom it has had no recent contact.

**The Cheltenham Ladies' College**  
Term begins today at the Cheltenham Ladies' College. Half term is from 5.00pm on Friday, February 14, to Wednesday, February 19, 1997 (inclusive). A Boarder Taster Weekend will take place on Saturday, March 1, and Sunday, March 2. The Junior Choir sings Evensong at Gloucester Cathedral on Tuesday, March 11. There will be a Combined Concert with Cheltenham College at 7.30pm on Sunday, March 16, at Cheltenham Town Hall. The Sixth Form Production of *The Italian Straw Hat* will take place in the Princess Hall on March 20 and 21, starting at 7.30pm. Term ends on Saturday, March 22, 1997.

**Pocklington School**  
Further to the beginning of term announcement, from Pocklington School, on Tuesday, January 7, 1997 - please note the following correction: The OP Dinner on Saturday, February 8, will be held in Cambridge and not as stated in Oxford.

**Whitgift School**  
The Lent Term began on January 7 and ends on March 21. Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice Johnston, KCB, OBE, presented prizes at Senior Prize-Giving on January 10. The Entrance Examination for admission at ages 10, 11 or 12 is on January 23. The Whitgift Invitation Concert given by the virtuoso violinist Leland Chen and John Lenehan (piano) takes place on January 18 and John Adams will give a piano recital on February 13. On April 21 the Whitgift Boys' Choir, with the London Mozart Players (who are Whitgift Associates Musicians) and James Bowman will perform at St John's Smith Square. The European Theatre Company production of *L'École des Femmes* takes place on January 23 and the school play, *Feydeau's farce A Flea in Her Ear* on March 13, 14 and 15. The school XV will play the touring rugby side from Unisa Senior High School, our link school in Johannesburg, to 4.30pm. Details of all events, tickets and this term's Arts Brochure are available from the School Office, 0181 688 9222.

**Latest wills**  
Constance Elizabeth Hope, of Whitley on Wyke, Hereford, left £3,740,551 net, to the late £5,000 to Whitley Parish Church and to the Discreet Benefactors Aid Association; £2,000 to Whitley Village; Joan Kearney, of Orlerton, Knutsford, Cheshire, left £1,588,260 net, to Grace Leyland, of Rainhill, Merseyside, £1,19,340 net, to Roger Michael Pearson, of Cheam, Surrey, left £1,035,422 net.



**HANS FEIBUSCH, 98**, who is thought to be the last surviving artist featured in the Nazis' Degenerate Art exhibition of 1937, stands in front of his painting 1939, which the Tate Gallery has added to its collection (Dalya Alberge writes). In the 1930s, Hitler dismissed Feibusch's works as "degenerate" and had them destroyed; some were included in the 1937 exhibition to show the German public the sick minds of Modernist artists. The Tate notes that 1939, which was inspired by the artist's forbidding premonition of the consequences of war on humanity, represents a group of three figures "illuminated by an intense, almost apocalyptic light. Held in an upright position by the central figure, the person to the left is dead. The other two appear profoundly distressed."

Feibusch was born in Frankfurt am Main in 1898, studied in Germany, Italy and France and was awarded the 1930 German Grand State Prize for Painters by the Prussian Academy of Arts in Berlin; in the early 1930s, his circle included an avant-garde group of young artists in Frankfurt. However, with the rise of the Nazis, and Hitler's edict forbidding Jews from practising art, he emigrated in 1933 to England, where he produced many of his major works. Mural, inspired by early Italian Renaissance art, decorate Chichester Cathedral among other public buildings. The Tate is displaying the painting until January 27.

## Duke of Edinburgh at prince's funeral

The Duke of Edinburgh flew to Stockholm yesterday to attend the funeral of Prince Bertil of Sweden. Representatives from other European Royal Families included Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, King Harald V of Norway, Princess Cristina of Spain, and Princess Margriet of The Netherlands. Prince Bertil, the uncle of

King Carl XVI Gustaf and fourth in line to the throne, died in his sleep at his home in Stockholm nine days ago, aged 84, after being ill for several years. His wife, Princess Lilian, a divorced British actress, was by his side.

Prince Bertil, the third-born son of King Gustav VI Adolf, and Lilian Craig met and fell in love in London during the

Second World War. For 33 years they kept their relationship secret to avoid the constitutional crisis that could have arisen had Prince Bertil married a commoner while he was still next in line to the throne. But in 1973 his nephew Crown Prince Carl Gustaf came of age and became King. Three years later Prince Bertil and Lilian Craig married.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Dr D.W. Runciman and Miss E.J. Wilson**  
The engagement is announced between Dr D.W. Runciman, son of the Viscount and Viscountess Runciman of Doxford, and Dr E.J. Wilson, daughter of Mr A.N. Wilson and Miss Katherine Duncan-Jones.

**Mr W.I.C. Fraser and Miss G.E.L. Henderson**  
The engagement is announced between William Ian Campbell, son of Sir Charles and Lady Fraser, of Inveresk, East Lothian, and Gail Erika Longdon, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Toralf Halvorsen, of Chesham Bois, Buckinghamshire.

**Mr D.B. Symonds and Miss A.J. Lindsay**  
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Brian Symonds, of Sturston, Kent, and Alexandra, eldest daughter of Sir John and Lady Lindsay, of St John's Wood, London.

**Captain A.J.W. Boothby and Miss H.C.O. Wood**  
The engagement is announced between Captain Adam Boothby, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, son of Mr and Mrs John Boothby, of Netherfield, Lincolnshire, and Henrietta, daughter of Colonel and Mrs Charles Wood, of Perth.

**Mr J.R. Clark and Miss K.M. Power-Wright**  
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Clark, of Edenbridge, Kent, and Kate, daughter of Major and Mrs John Porter-Wright, of Swallowcliffe, Wiltshire.

**Mr P.P. Henson and Miss A.M. Farrman**  
The engagement is announced between Fred, son of the late Mr Per Ake Henson and Mrs Eva Söder, of Kungälv, Sweden, and Elin, daughter of the late Wing Commander R.J. Rasmussen and of Mrs Fursman, of Rothmans, Inverness-shire.

**Mr L.J.C. Kiggell and Miss L.L. Blake**  
The engagement is announced between Cameron, son of Wing Commander and Mrs Laurence Kiggell, of Telford, Gloucestershire, and Laura, daughter of Professor and Mrs Gerald Blake, of Durham, Co Durham.

**Captain J.C.C. Haworth and Miss L.J. Best**  
The engagement is announced between Captain Jeremy Haworth, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, second son of Captain and Mrs J. Haworth, of Hong Kong, and Laura, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.K. Best, of Darlington, County Durham.

**Mr M.E. Lewis FRCS and Dr K.M. Fisher**  
The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Lewis, of Wignora, Kent, and Kristina, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Fisher, of Wainall, Nottinghamshire.

**Mr L.P. Marria and Miss K.J. Hunt**  
The engagement is announced between Ian, second son of Mr and Mrs Denis Marria, of Farham, Surrey, and Kristina, second daughter of Professor and Mrs John Hunt, of Esher, Surrey.

**Mr J.W.D. Neil and Miss A.A. Callaghan**  
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Graham Neil, of Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire, and Alexandra, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs John Callaghan, of Castletown, Co Cork.

**Mr E.F. Ward-Thomson and Miss C.J. Giles**  
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Ward-Thomson, of Horham Hall, Thaxted, Essex, and Claire, only daughter of Mr and Mrs James Giles, of Perwood Manor, Hindon, Wiltshire.

**Mr C.H.D. Whistler and Miss K.L. Rotherford**  
The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr Christopher Whistler, of Reigate, Surrey, and Mrs Barbara Heap, of Robin Hoods Bay, Yorkshire, and Karen, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Rotherford, of Brotherton, Yorkshire.

**Marriage**  
Mr D. Pearey and Miss S. Knowles. The marriage took place quietly on Saturday, December 21, 1996, at 11.30 am, at St David Pearey and Miss Susan Knowles.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** John Biddle, Unitarian, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, baptised this day, 1635; William Cavill, founder of the Church Army, Britain, London, 1847; Albert Schweitzer, doctor, musician and missionary, Kaysersberg, France, 1875; Sir Cecil Beaton, photographer, London, 1904.

**DEATHS:** Edmund Hall, astrologer, London, 1742; George Berkeley, philosopher and Bishop of Cloyne 1734-53; Oxford, 1753; Henry Edward Manning, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, 1805-92; London, 1892; Lewis Carroll (pseudonym of Charles Dodg-

son), writer, Guildford, Surrey, 1832; Humphrey Bogart, actor, Hollywood, 1917; Anthony Eden, 1st Earl of Avon, Prime Minister, 1955-57; Salisbury, 1977; Peter Finch, actor, Los Angeles, 1971. The last London Post fair was held, 1814. Alexander Graham Bell's telephone was demonstrated to Queen Victoria at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, 1878. More than 1,000 people were killed when an earthquake destroyed most of Kingston, Jamaica, 1907. The newly renovated Covent Garden Opera House opened with a singing of Bizet's *Carmen*, 1947.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

You must speak my words in them, whether they be to you or whether in them be to others. Eucharist 2: 7

## BIRTHS

**ANDREWS** - On January 6th, to Clara and Nicholas, a son, William Christopher Thomas.

**BARBER-MILL** - On 28th November 1996, to Adam and Carolyn, a son, Theodore James and McCoy Kay.

**CAYLEY** - On 8th January 1997, at Cheltenham, to Fiona (née Carr) and Christopher, a daughter, Catriona Emily.

**CORRETT** - On January 10th, to Nick and Susan, a son, Thomas George Reuben, who was born early, in the evening.

**CORRETT** - On 26th December 1996, to Alan and George, a son, Dominic Tadhg Kenneth.

**CORRETT** - On January 6th, to Heather (née Corbett) and Bob, a son, Daniel Michael William.

**CROWTHER** - On January 4th 1997, to Paddy and Geoffrey, a son, Felix John William.

**CURRAN** - On 1st January 1997, at Chelsea, to William and Catherine, a daughter, Daphne Kate.

**ELIOTT** - On 20th December 1996, to John and Susan, a daughter, Sophie Victoria, a sister for Thomas.

**FLANAGAN** - On January 10th at home, to Emma (née Scobie) and John, a daughter, Ruby Rose.

**FORDINGHAM** - On January 12th 1997, to Victoria and Steve, a beautiful daughter, Sophia, a sister to John.

**FOSTER-BALL** - On January 8th at the Portland Hospital, to Elaine (née Macdonald) and Trevor, a beautiful first born son, Ewan.

**GLOAG** - On January 9th 1997, to Victoria (née Walsh) and John, a twin daughter, Sophie Frances and Philippa Louise, sisters for Isobel.

**GRANHAM** - On 8th January 1997, to Elizabeth (née Day) and John, a son, Mungo John.

**GRAY** - On January 6th, to Lucy (née Barbary) and Martin, a daughter, Ella, a sister for Tom and William.

**HALSTEAD** - On January 7th at the Portland Hospital, to Sarah (née Bentley) and Andrew, a daughter, Elizabeth Langley, a sister for Jack.

**HANLON** - On January 8th at the Portland Hospital, to Lorna-Kay (née Liley) and David, a son, Richard James, a brother for John.

**KIRKPUP** - On December 29th to the Scarborough Hospital, to Sarah (née Sarah Jane Hillier) and Timothy Lawrence, a daughter, Ella, a sister for Alice and Thomas.

**LEVY** - On January 11th, to Karen (née Frothingham) and Robert, a daughter, Martha Alice Beth.

**MERRICK** - On January 7th 1997, to Gavin (née Roberts) and Lisa, a daughter, Alice Olivia.

**MURDOCH** - On January 8th, to Morna and Alastair, a son, Cameron Seymour.

## DEATHS

**OLYMPIAN** - On January 11th 1997, to Emily (née Olympe) and John, a daughter, Olympia Eleanora.

**PRESTON** - On 4th January, to Susan (née Grant) and David, a son, David James.

**SHARP** - On January 9th at the Portland Hospital, to Lesley and Alan, a daughter, Alexandra Grace.

**STRACHAN** - On 4th January, to Ian and Annabella (née Strachan), a son, Alexander Francis Mackin.

**TREVELL** - On 4th January 1997, in Wellington, New Zealand, to John and Susan, a son, David James.

**UNSWORTH** - On January 6th, to Michelle (née Unsworth) and Alan, a son, Alan James.

**WALTON** - On 16th December, to Alan and Paul, a son, Paul James.

**WOODWARD** - On 11th January 1997, to Sally and John, a daughter, Victoria, a sister for Henry.

**WORTH** - On January 6th 1997, to Fiona (née Coghill) and Nick, a son, Nick James.

**WYBURN** - On January 10th, to John and Susan, a daughter, Sophie Victoria, a sister for Thomas.

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## PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

## BIRTHS

**ANDREWS** - On January 6th, to Clara and Nicholas, a son, William Christopher Thomas.

**BARBER-MILL** - On 28th November 1996, to Adam and Carolyn, a son, Theodore James and McCoy Kay.

**CAYLEY** - On 8th January 1997, at Cheltenham, to Fiona (née Carr) and Christopher, a daughter, Catriona Emily.

**CORRETT** - On January 10th, to Nick and Susan, a son, Thomas George Reuben, who was born early, in the evening.

**CORRETT** - On 26th December 1996, to Alan and George, a son, Dominic Tadhg Kenneth.

**CORRETT** - On January 6th, to Heather (née Corbett) and Bob, a son, Daniel Michael William.

**CROWTHER** - On January 4th 1997, to Paddy and Geoffrey, a son, Felix John William.

**CURRAN** - On 1st January 1997, at Chelsea, to William and Catherine, a daughter, Daphne Kate.

**ELIOTT** - On 20th December 1996, to John and Susan, a daughter, Sophie Victoria, a sister for Thomas.

**FLANAGAN** - On January 10th at home, to Emma (née Scobie) and John, a daughter, Ruby Rose.

**FORDINGHAM** - On January 12th 1997, to Victoria and Steve, a beautiful daughter, Sophia, a sister to John.

**FOSTER-BALL** - On January 8th at the Portland Hospital, to Elaine (née Macdonald) and Trevor, a beautiful first born son, Ewan.

**GLOAG** - On January 9th 1997, to Victoria (née Walsh) and John, a twin daughter, Sophie Frances and Philippa Louise, sisters for Isobel.

**GRANHAM** - On 8th January 1997, to Elizabeth (née Day) and John, a son, Mungo John.

**GRAY** - On January 6th, to Lucy (née Barbary) and Martin, a daughter, Ella, a sister for Tom and William.

**HALSTEAD** - On January 7th at the Portland Hospital, to Sarah (née Bentley) and Andrew, a daughter, Elizabeth Langley, a sister for Jack.

**HANLON** - On January 8th at the Portland Hospital, to Lorna-Kay (née Liley) and David, a son, Richard James, a brother for John.

**KIRKPUP** - On December 29th to the Scarborough Hospital, to Sarah (née Sarah Jane Hillier) and Timothy Lawrence, a daughter, Ella, a sister for Alice and Thomas.

**LEVY** - On January 11th, to Karen (née Frothingham) and Robert, a daughter, Martha Alice Beth.

**MERRICK** - On January 7th 1997, to Gavin (née Roberts) and Lisa, a daughter, Alice Olivia.

**MURDOCH** - On January 8th, to Morna and Alastair, a son, Cameron Seymour.

**OLYMPIAN** - On January 11th 1997, to Emily (née Olympe) and John, a daughter, Olympia Eleanora.

**PRESTON** - On 4th January, to Susan (née Grant) and David, a son, David James.

**SHARP** - On January 9th at the Portland Hospital, to Lesley and Alan, a daughter, Alexandra Grace.

**STRACHAN** - On 4th January, to Ian and Annabella (née Strachan), a son, Alexander Francis Mackin.

**TREVELL** - On 4th January 1997, in Wellington, New Zealand, to John and Susan, a son, David James.

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# Solution for Newcastle at the end of the rainbow



KEVIN KEEGAN'S departure from Newcastle United occasioned much comment about the pressures of football management. One Interactive Team Football selector — with three teams in the leading 250 — is unconcerned, claiming that he is the man to replace Keegan at St James' Park.

George Weiss, an unemployed political activist who is the leader of the Rainbow Connection Movement, said yesterday: "I have put in an offer to Newcastle United. Under me, Newcastle would be even more attack-minded than under Kevin Keegan." So forget Robson or Dalglish — Weiss is the man.

The outspoken Weiss, whose pedigree includes being a former political ally of Screaming Lord Sutch, has offered Newcastle £50,000 to give him the job for a week on a trial basis. With Jackie Milburn as his boyhood idol, how can Sir John Hall refuse? The weekly winner in ITF was Mr F. Murray, of Glasgow. His team, the Aberdeen Row, scored 51 points this week, with notable contributions from Jorge Cadete, the Celtic forward, and Tommy Burns, his manager. The overall leader is John Hunt, of Taunton, back at the top after a short hiatus.

If your team could be doing better, you can use the ITF transfer system which allows



Sutton, the Blackburn Rovers forward, scored two goals against Coventry. His recent form demands selection



you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01552 488 122.

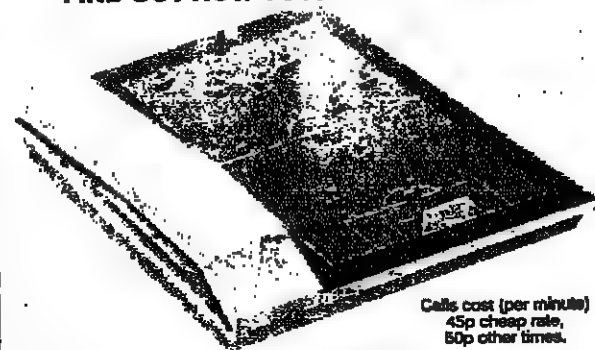
## THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	453
2	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	451
3	Jones Boys Eight	(M Jones)	443
4	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	443
5	Where's Ray Gone?	(P Brown)	442
6	Daggers	(V Cox)	436
7	Jones Boys Three	(M Jones)	436
8	Beeston Celtic	(B McGovern)	435
9	Purple Rain	(B Gohil)	432
10	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	432
11	Jabberwocky	(P A Arnesen)	429
12	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	429
13	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	429
14	Gangsters	(A Lone)	428
15	Nobby	(J Brown)	428
16	Brain's Team	(S Hines)	423
17	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	423
18	Bob's Boys 2	(P Calder)	422
19	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	422
20	Nonchalant AFC 3	(J Ward)	420
21	Jones Boys One	(M Jones)	419
22	Inter The Stand	(M Ward)	418
23	Raj Is Back To Kill 6	(R Gohil)	417
24	Nobby 29	(J Brown)	417
25	Raj Is Back To Kill 5	(R Gohil)	416
26	Edmo Utd	(R Gohil)	414
27	Raj Is Back To Kill 7	(R Gohil)	413
28	Team C	(A Lone)	410
29	Nobby's Ark	(G P Dolan)	410
30	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	410
31	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	410
32	Blackburners	(P Walters)	408
33	Storm	(F Mills)	407
34	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)	407
35	Brainbow United	(G Weiss)	406
36	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	405
37	Subwith Utd 5	(M Lacombe)	405
38	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	405
39	Abc	(M Barber)	402
40	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	402
41	Pin Ups Two	(P Turner)	401
42	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	399
43	You're Not Very Well	(R Lashkovski)	398
44	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	397
45	Abc	(M Barber)	397
46	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	397
47	Nobby 34	(J Brown)	396
48	A2	(K Farhall)	395
49	Crooky Boys	(R Crook)	395
50	Sonky Boys	(R Crook)	394
51	Tulip's Tops	(D Tulip)	394
52	Bob's Boys 4	(R Calder)	393
53	Mars FC	(M Barber)	393
54	Set Against Cys	(S Shipley)	392
55	Krystonia 2	(J Roberts)	391
56	End Four	(M Ward)	391
57	Inter The Bin	(S Fraser)	391
58	Kinky Imports	(M Jones)	391
59	Jones Boys Sky	(J Brown)	391
60	Nobby J	(A Bates)	391
61	JJB Sports	(P Turner)	390
62	Turner's Earners 6	(J Staszewicz)	389
63	A	(M Corless)	389
64	Hunter's Mob	(C Hunter)	388
65	Always Portugal 1	(V Guimaraes)	388
66	Bob's Boys 1	(R Calder)	388
67	Sky Rockets	(K Farhall)	388

## THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

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66	Bob's Boys 1	(R Calder)	388
67	Sky Rockets	(K Farhall)	388

## FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
68	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	388
69	Garforth Seashawks	(J Doughty)	388
70	Layton's Lions 7	(R Layton)	387
71	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	387
72	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	386
73	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	386
74	End 2	(J Hagger)	385
75	Scholes For Goals	(K Booth)	385
76	Joking	(P Follen)	385
77	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	384
78	4.4.2	(K Browne)	384
79	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	384
80	Bob's Boys 30	(P Bown)	383
81	Thom Foolery FC	(M Horan)	383
82	Concrete Banana	(J Browne)	383
83	Nobby 23	(J Brown)	382
84	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swales)	382
85	Uni Boys Utd 1	(G Gardiner)	382
86	Agapanthus FC	(W Heslop)	382
87	Inter The Unknown	(P Barnett)	382
88	Inter The Wall	(M Ward)	381
89	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohil)	381
90	RKV 3	(C Vanece)	381
91	Teddy Three	(J Hamilton)	381
92	Patrick Biffco 3	(K J Burns)	381
93	1st Elft	(J Clayton)	381
94	Dour Rangers 3	(R Gohil)	379
95	Raj Is Back To Kill 8	(S Miller)	379
96	Dynamo Hills	(R Calder)	379
97	Bob's Boys 3	(J Brown)	379
98	John Hunt Taunton B	(J Hunt)	379
99	Alexia FC	(A Stilliano)	378
100	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swales)	378
101	CUOK	(G Weiss)	378
102	Gestalt	(R Rowe)	378
103	Nobby 25	(J Brown)	378
104	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	378
105	PJB Rowers	(P J Butler)	377
106	Oct95-ITF Champ	(M Stadden)	377

## EXCLUSIVE ITF COMPETITION THE TIMES

# 75 PAIRS OF FOOTBALL VIDEOS TO BE WON

As this year's Premiership race heats up, The Times Interactive Team Football and Sky Sports give you the chance to see how the contenders dealt with the pressure at the end of last season. You can win a pair of exciting high quality football videos worth £24.98 featuring the finest of Premiership matches with expert commentary and in-depth analysis. The coverage includes multiple camera angles, Dolby surround sound and super slow motion — allowing you to relive the most memorable moments. Battle for the Premiership shows the clash of the titans in the epic Premiership title race and Ballistic '96 is a must for fans who want to relive the sensational goals scored by some of the world's top footballers.



## HOW TO ENTER

Register (only players of The Times ITF game) send your name, your ITF team name, ITF pin number and the answer to the question below, on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope for The Times/Sky Sports Comp, 16 Whitehall St, London EC8 2NG. Closing date: Friday, January 31, 1997. Winners will be drawn at random. Normal T&C rules apply.

Who scored most goals in the Premiership during the 1995/96 season?



## CHANGING TIMES

## HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

Call 0891 866 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom, call 0044 990 200 668. You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone. You will need a ten-digit selector's PIN which you will have to be, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and you will be able to make transfers.

You may only make transfers in one team per week. You may transfer a maximum of two players and one manager per week. You may transfer in both, you must make two separate calls.

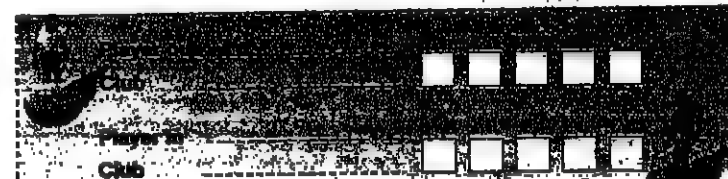
You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same club. You must not exceed the £35 million budget and you must not exceed the £35 million budget and you must not exceed the £35 million budget.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made after noon on the following day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 45p per minute, 80p per minute at other times. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.





The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option



Anderson, of Rangers, in action against Aberdeen on Saturday. His two goals boosted his ITF tally to 31 points

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ch
0101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-4	
0102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0	-14	
0201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-1	-28	
0202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0	
0203	J Laidie	Arsenal	0.75	0	-10	
0301	M Boehm	Aston Villa	3.50	-3	+2	
0401	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+19	
0402	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-5	-11	
0403	S Givens	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	-3	+4	
0501	G Marshall	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	-3	+4	
0502	S Kerr	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	-1	
0601	D Kharina	Chelsea	3.00	-4	+5	
0602	K Hinchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	-10	
0603	F Groves	Chelsea	3.00	-3	+3	
0701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-7	-20	
0702	J Fisan	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	
0801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	0	
0802	R Moxie	Derby County	1.00	-1	-15	
0901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	+4	
0902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	-10	
1001	I Westwater	Durham United	0.50	0	-10	
1101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-8	-12	
1103	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	+1	
1201	G Rousseau	Hibernian	2.00	-4	-21	
1202	J Laidie	Hibernian	1.50	-3	-19	
1301	D Laidie	Hibernian	1.50	-12	-31	
1401	M Seemey	Leeds United	1.50	0	0	
1502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
1503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	-5	+7	
1601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0	-8	
1603	K Kellier	Leicester City	1.00	0	-8	
1701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	+5	+20	
1702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0	
1801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-1	-7	
1802	R van der Grint	Manchester United	1.00	0	0	
1901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1	-20	
1902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-23	
2001	S Howie	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1	-20	
2101	P Smith	Newcastle United	4.00	-2	-6	
2102	P Smith	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0	
2201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-5	-19	
2202	A Fattis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0	
2203	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0	
2301	S Thomson	Rath Rovers	0.50	0	-25	
2401	A Gorman	Rangers	5.00	+5	+22	
2501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-1	+3	
2502	C Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0	
2601	D Beasant	Southampton	2.50	-1	-28	
2602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	+2	
2603	C Woods	Southampton	1.50	0	-19	
2604	M Taylor	Southampton	1.50	+4	+4	
2702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	+5	-18	
2801	A Cotton	Sunderland	1.00	0	-9	
2802	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	-3	-5	
2803	E Baarsdon	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
2901	S Mouton	West Ham United	2.00	0	+6	
2902	S Mouton	West Ham United	0.50	0	+6	
3001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	-1	-1	
3002	P Head	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0	

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ch
30205	S Marshall	Arsenal	1.00	0	0	
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	-1	-15	
30302	U Ebiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	-1	-37	
30304	C Tiler	Aston Villa	1.00	-1	-11	
30305	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00	-1	-15	
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	+4	+21	
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0	
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-8	
30404	N Markar	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+2	
30501	T Boyd	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+4	+18	
30502	M Mackery	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	-4	+9	
30503	A Stubbs	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+11	
30504	B O'Neill	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+2	
30601	M Daberry	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-1	-1	
30602	F Laboul	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-1	-20	
30603	R Schmeichel	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	-1	
30604	L Lee	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+3	
30605	A Myers	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	-1	+5	
30606	E Johnson	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+10	
30701	L Dale	Coventry City	3.00	-3	+5	
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-3	+2	
30703	I Stamat	Coventry City	2.50	0	-5	
30801	D Watson	Derby County	1.00	0	0	
30802	J Lawrence	Derby County	2.50	0	-1	
30803	M Caron	Derby County	1.00	0	+8	
30804	S Pressley	Derby County	0.50	0	-1	
31001	M Miller	Dundee United	1.00	0	-38	
31002	J Iwan	Dundee United	0.75	0	-18	
31101	D Unsworth	Dundee United	2.50	0	+11	
31102	D Watson	Dundee United	2.50	-2	+11	
31103	C Gifford	Dundee United	1.50	0	-9	
31201	D McPherson	Hibernian	1.00	-1	-10	
31202	P Ritchie	Hibernian	1.00	-2	-13	
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	-4	
31302	S Walsh	Hibernian	0.75	-2	-10	
31303	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	-2	-4	
31401	M Kelly	Kilmarnock	1.00	-5	-4	
31402	R McGovern	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	-1	
31501	D Wetherill	Leeds United	2.50	+3	+17	
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2	
31503	L Radice	Leeds United	1.00	0	+8	
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
31601	S Walsh	Leeds United	1.00	0	+6	
31602	J Wells	Leeds United	1.00	0	+9	
31603	P Casmark	Leeds United	1.00	0	-3	
31604	P Casmark	Leeds United	1.00	0	-3	
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	-20	
31702	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0	-22	
31703	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	+1	+14	
31704	M Ruddock	Liverpool	1.00	+4	+21	
31801	G Palfrey	Manchester United	3.50	0	+2	
31802	D Miley	Manchester United	3.00	0	+28	
31803	J McInnes	Manchester United	2.50	0	+28	
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-9	
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-10	
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-12	
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4	
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	0	-8	
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	-1	-2	
32101	S Hovet	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+7	
32102	S Hovet	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7	
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	-16	
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+4	+8	
32202	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+4	+8	
32203	S Blomfield	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-5	
32301	S Dennis	Rath Rovers	1.00	-1	-25	
32302	R Gough	Rangers	3.00	-4	+7	
32303	A McInnes	Rangers	3.50	+4	+21	
32401	J Bjorndal	Rangers	2.50	+4	+21	
32402	G Polak	Rangers	3.50	+4	+21	
32501	J Nussbaum	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+6	
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+20	
32503	K Lingham	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0	
32601	A Nussbaum	Southampton	1.00	-4	-11	
32602	C Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0	-4	
32603	C Lundqvist	Southampton	0.50	0	-14	
32604	U van Gool	Southampton	1.50	-3	-19	
32701	A McVie	Sunderland	1.00	+4	+20	
32702	K Bell	Sunderland	1.00	+4	+20	
32801	R O'Neil	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	-15	
32802	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	+1	
32803	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-2	-9	
32804	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0	
32805	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-3	
32901	S Sime	West Ham United	2.50	+4	+14	
32902	M Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	+4	+14	
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	-1	-2	
32904	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	0	0	
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	1.50	0	0	
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	0.50	0	0	
33002	A Reeves	Wimbledon	0.50	0	0	
33003	A Reeves	Wimbledon	0.50	0	0	
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	-1	-10	
33005	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	-1	-10	
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0	

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ch
40502	A Thom	Celtic	2.50	0	+22	
40503	S Donnelly	Celtic	2.50	+1	+23	
40504	P Grant	Celtic	1.50	0	+18	
40505	P di Canio	Celtic	3.00	+1	+29	
40506	D Hamm	Celtic	1.50	+3	+3	
40601	R Griffin	Chelsea	3.50	0	+9	
40602	D Wise	Chelsea	3.00	0	+21	
40603	C Burley	Chelsea	2.00	+1	+18	
40604	E Newton	Chelsea	2.00	+1	+13	
40605	D Rocastle	Chelsea	0.50	0	0	
40606	R di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00	+1	+34	
40607	J Morris	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
40701	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	+1	+29	
40702	G McAllister	Coventry City	5.50	+1	+38	
40703	E Jones	Coventry City	2.00	+1	+12	
40704	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+18	
40705	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+18	
40706	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+16	
40707	M Isaacs	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	
40708	W Boland	Coventry City	0.25	0	0	
40709	M O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1	
40801	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.00	+1	+28	
40802	P Simpson	Derby County	1.50	0	+2	
40803	R van der Laan	Derby County	1.50	0	+2	
40804	D Powell	Derby County	1.00	+1	+20	
40805	S Flynn	Derby County	0.75	+1	+11	
40806	G Rowett	Derby County	0.50	+1	+19	
40807	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	0	-22	
40901	G McSwegen	Dundee United	2.00	0	-19	
40902	R Winters	Dundee United	1.50	+1	+35	
40903	G Johnson	Dundee United	1.00	0	0	
40904	J McNally	Dundee United	0.75	+2	+13	
40905	D Bowman	Dundee United	0.75	0	-20	
41001	A Bennet	Dundee United	0.50	0	+2	
41002	H French	Dunfermline	1.00	+2	+28	
41003	C Robertson	Dunfermline	1.00	+1	+21	
41004	A Smith	Dunfermline	0.75	+1	+27	
41005	D Fleming	Dunfermline	0.50	0	-17	
41101	A Kerschelski	Everton	7.00	+1	+37	
41102	G Speed	Everton	4.00	+1	+45	
41103	J Ebbell	Everton	1.50	0	+7	
41104	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	-22	
41105	A Limper	Everton	1.50	0	+1	
41106	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	-11	
41201	A McManus	Hearts	1.50	0	+7	
41202	S Fulton	Hearts	1.00	0	+15	
41301	K McAllister	Hibernian	1.50	0	+14	
41302	P McGinley	Hibernian	1.50	+1	+22	
41303	G Love	Hibernian	0.75	+1	+6	
41304	A Millen	Hibernian	0.50	+2	+18	
41305	I Cameron	Hibernian	0.75	0	+7	
41401	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	1.00	+2	+21	
41402	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	+14	
41403	M Skilling	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	0	
41404	J Lauchlan	Kilmarnock	0.50	0	-11	
41501	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00	+4	+27	
41502	A Gray	Leeds United	2.50	0	+1	
41503	C Palmer	Leeds United	2.00	0	-14	
41504	R Wallace	Leeds United	1.50	+1	+15	
41505	L Sharpe	Leeds United	3.50	0	+30	
41506	I Harte	Leeds United	1.00	0	+14	
41507	M Ford	Leeds United	0.50	0	-19	
41508	A Couzens	Leeds United	0.50	0	+8	
41509	M Tinker	Leeds United	0.50	0	+2	
41601	N Lamson	Leeds United	2.00	0	-21	
41602	G Parker	Leeds United	2.00	+1	+12	
41603	S Taylor	Leeds United	2.00	+1	+17	
41604	J Lawrence	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
41605	M Izzet	Leeds United	1.00	+1	+28	
41701	S McKinnam	Liverpool	4.00	+2	+38	
41702	J McAuley	Liverpool	4.00	+2	+29	
41703	J Redknapp	Liverpool	4.00	0	+6	
41704	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+2	+38	
41705	M Thomas	Liverpool	2.50	+2	+33	
41706	M Kennedy	Liverpool	1.00	0	0	
41707	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	+2	+23	
41801	R Kean	Manchester United	7.00	+1	+28	
41802	R Kean	Manchester United	4.50	0	0	
41803	D Beckham	Manchester United	4.00	+3	+42	
41804	N Butt	Manchester United	3.50	0	-28	
41805	S McClair	Manchester United	1.50	0	+5	
41806	T Cooke	Manchester United	1.00	0	0	
41807	B Thorne	Manchester United	1.00	0	-1	
41808	S Davies	Manchester United	0.50	0	0	
41810	J Cruyff	Manchester United	2.50	0	+15	
41811	K Poborsky	Manchester United	0.50	0	-14	
41901	Emmerson	Middlesbrough	3.50	0	+18	
41902	Juninho	Middlesbrough	3.50	0	+18	
41903	C Phillips	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	-12	
41905	A Moore	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+1	
41906	R Muntze	Middlesbrough	1.00	+1	+18	
41908	C Liddle	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+6	
41909	S Robson	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+1	
41910	P Stamp	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+14	
42001	C McHart	Motherwell	1.00	0	+12	
42002	J Phillips	Motherwell	1.00	0	+10	
42003	J Dolan	Motherwell	1.00	0	-11	
42004	J Hendry	Motherwell	0.75	0	+2	
42101	G Gilchrist	Newcastle United	5.50	0	+17	







# THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY

ARTS

Send in the clowns at the London Mime Festival  
PAGES 35-37

LAW

How women are succeeding in the legal world  
PAGE 43

SPORT

Henman clears first hurdle at Australian Open  
PAGES 47-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO

PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY JANUARY 14 1997

## Sears hopes to pacify institutions with buyback

By Sarah Cunningham

LIAM STRONG, chief executive of Sears, the struggling retailer, sought to placate institutional shareholders yesterday by promising that the group would return £410 million to them, probably through a share buyback.

Most of the money for the buyback will come from the sale, announced yesterday, of its Freeman's mail order business to Littlewoods for £395 million. The rest will come from last year's sale of a Glasgow shopping centre. The Freeman's deal will lead to an exceptional loss, after the write-off of goodwill, of £220 million, Sears said. This is set to

plunge Sears about £140 million into the red for the current year to January 31. Forecasts for full-year profits, which will be announced in April, were slashed from more than £100 million to about £80 million last week after Sears — which includes Selfridges, the British Shoe Corporation and the Wallis and Warehouse women's wear chains — issued a profit warning and unexpectedly poor trading figures.

Sears will have to bear some tax and pension costs from the Freeman's deal which means it is likely to receive only £38 million. The sale is conditional on the approval of Sears shareholders, which will be sought at an extraordinary general meeting on January 30. Other conditions are the agreement of Littlewoods shareholders and clearance by the Office of Fair Trading.

The success of the latest Sears move depends on the outcome of talks between the company and the Inland Revenue over whether its institutional investors can claim tax credits from a buyback, analysts said. A buyback is preferred to a special dividend because of its potential tax advantages.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	4107.3 (+50.7)
FTSE All share	n/a
Nikkei	18118.79 (+815.14)
Dow Jones	6717.89 (+13.88)
S&P Composite	760.71 (+1.21)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.50% (5.50%)
Long Bond	8.50% (8.50%)
Yield	8.85% (8.85%)

LONDON MONEY	
Three month bill	6.50% (6.50%)
Libor 1m	100.00 (100.00)

STERLING	
New York	1.8727 (1.8801)
London	1.8802 (1.8802)
DM	2.8514 (2.8517)
FF	8.9455 (8.9778)
Sfr	2.3004 (2.3114)
Yen	194.05 (194.77)
£ index	96.7 (96.1)

NORTH AMERICA	
London close	£380.05 (£380.10)
Brent 15-day (Mar)	£22.50 (£22.85)

## Hilton and Ladbroke sign tie-up agreement

By Oliver August

HILTON HOTELS, the American group, could buy a stake of up to 20 per cent in Ladbroke, owner of the Hilton brand outside the US, at a cost of up to £550 million, it was announced yesterday.

The share purchase is seen as a natural progression from the tie-up signed by the two hotel groups yesterday. Hilton will acquire a five per cent stake in Ladbroke following US regulatory approval, expected within a few days. Ladbroke said it would not buy a reciprocal stake in Hilton because US companies pay low dividends and cash is needed for other investments.

Details of the tie-up — expected to last 20 years, with a 10-year renewal option — show that co-operation will focus on worldwide marketing, reservations and a loyalty programme. Stephen Bollenbach, Hilton's executive president, said: "The idea is to get as many points of contact as possible."

He did not rule out a formal merger in the future but said that this presented huge problems for the two groups. "We have talked about it," he said. Both groups deem themselves to be too small to buy the other outright without harming their healthy credit ratings. And a transatlantic share swap was considered too difficult.

## Share prices

Share prices listed on page 33 may not reflect the closing prices because of difficulties at the supplier of the data.

## European opposition to BA link intensifies

By Jon Aspin

BRITISH AIRWAYS insisted that its proposed alliance with American Airlines was on track yesterday, despite signs of growing opposition from the European Commission. BA said the final word on the deal rested with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in London.

Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, has written to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, expressing his concerns. He said the agreement would constitute "an abuse of a dominant position" and questioned whether it met the conditions for the granting of an exemption under European law.

BA and American would together speak for more than 60 per cent of flights between the UK and US, and account for nearly 70 per cent of the important London-New York run. Mr Lang announced last month that he would refer the alliance to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless suitable undertakings were given. These included giving up 165 weekly take-off and landing slots at Heathrow — the equivalent of 12 flights a day. The undertakings had to be enough to remove competition concerns, and allow an exemption to be granted under European law.

Rival carriers say BA should be forced to give up a far greater number of slots at Heathrow — perhaps 400 or more — and should not be financially compensated. Each pair of slots could be worth £3 million, potentially leaving BA with a huge "war chest" at its disposal.

Mr van Miert has fueled the debate, saying selling slots is not permitted under European Union civil aviation regulations. Neil Kinnock, the EU Transport Commissioner, has expressed a similar opinion. Mr van Miert intimated that he would refer the alliance to the European Court of Justice if BA insisted yesterday that the European Commission could not ultimately interfere with the decision-making process. Under Article 89 of the

Treaty of Rome, the decision rests with the competent regulatory authority — in this case, the DTI. The DTI is expected to make a decision on the alliance by the end of the month. The DTI is expected to make a decision on the alliance by the end of the month. The DTI is expected to make a decision on the alliance by the end of the month.

Whether the BA/American alliance proceeds depends on three separate strands. On Friday, the two airlines formally applied to the US Department of Transportation (DOT) for anti-trust immunity. Without this, they will be unable to co-ordinate their passenger and cargo services. The process normally takes about 90 days.

Officials assembled in Washington on February 4 for the next round of talks aimed at clinching a new bilateral air services agreement between the UK and US. The last round was held in London on December 6. This "open sides" agreement must be clinched before BA/American can proceed.

The final word rests with Mr Lang. Friday was the last day for submissions from carriers opposed to the alliance. The DOT will consider the submissions and pass its recommendations to Mr Lang, who will in turn announce his decision. The process is expected to take some weeks.

It seems likely that these three "points" will come to the boil at about the same time. BA and American hope to begin phasing in operations to coincide with their summer fares season, which starts on March 30.



Allen Lloyd stands to make £35 million from Gehe's takeover of Lloyds Chemists

## Gehe wins Lloyds Chemists

GEHE, the German pharmaceuticals company, yesterday won the year-long fight for Lloyds Chemists after UniChem finally conceded defeat. The British bidder decided not to increase its offer and instead sold its 9.7 per cent stake in Lloyds to Gehe (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Lloyds Chemists recommended Gehe's 52.5p-a-share, £684 million final offer. It said that all of its board, including Allen Lloyd, founding chairman and holder of 5 per cent

of the chemist-shop company, would accept Gehe's terms. Mr Lloyd stands to make more than £35 million from the deal. His wife, Marilyn, who sold three million shares at 450p in May, could have made an extra £2.25 million if she had hung on to the end.

During the day, Gehe swept up 57.5 per cent of Lloyds shares, taking its holding to 78.4 per cent. Jeff Harris, the chief executive of UniChem, said: "UniChem believes that it was

## Shares soar as fear of interest rate rise recedes

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

THE London stock market surged to near record levels yesterday on renewed hopes that interest rates may not have to rise after tomorrow's monetary meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 50.7 points higher at 4,107.3, near its record in December of 4,185.3. Shares were given a double boost by another set of subdued industry price figures and a survey which found the Christmas season had been a "tail-biting time for retailers" which fell far short of 1980s-style boom conditions.

Producer input prices — the cost of raw materials — fell 0.5 per cent in December — 5.9 per cent lower than a year ago. In November, the year-on-year fall was 5.2 per cent.

Output prices rose 0.5 per cent in the month, cutting output price inflation to 1.7 per cent from 2.1 per cent in November. Michael Saunders, of Salomon Brothers, noted that this was the lowest rate since the oil price collapse in the mid-1980s.

Underlying output prices, which exclude food, drink, tobacco and petroleum products, rose 0.1 per cent in the month to give a year-on-year increase of 0.8 per cent. This is the lowest rate for this series since the late 1960s.

Mr Saunders said these figures suggest that underlying retail price inflation will fall to within the Government's 2.5 per cent or less target range this year if sterling does not weaken. He still expects base rates to go up modestly, but probably not until February.

The latest Retail Retail Consortium survey of retail sales was also interpreted as strengthening the Chancellor's hand if he wants to resist pressure from the Bank of

England for a rate rise at tomorrow's meeting. The BRC said December had a poor start, recovering only in the last days before Christmas and in the sales. Analysts said BSC could prove hard to sell and costly to close.

James Ross, chairman of Littlewoods, Britain's largest private company, said buying Freeman's should give it lower unit distribution and sourcing costs. The cash for the deal would come from bank loans, he said.

Seven-year high... 28  
Cosmetic boost... 29

## Pet City cash call bites the hand that feeds

By Jason Nisse

SUPPLIERS to Pet City, the "superstore devoted to pets", have reacted angrily to letters from the chain's new owners, Petsmart of Phoenix, Arizona, asking the suppliers for sizeable contributions towards the costs of expanding Pet City.

Petsmart bought Pet City, which was founded in 1989, for £170 million late

last year, in a deal seen by many analysts as overpriced. The ink was hardly dry on the sale when a letter was sent to suppliers, dated January 9, from Marcia Mayer, Petsmart's general merchandise manager.

The letter, a copy of which has been passed to *The Times*, mentions plans to open 30 stores in the next 15 months and asks suppliers to "assist us with a nominal fee" which, in the case of one

pet food manufacturer, was £150,000. Ms Mayer asks for a reply to the UK purchasing director by this Thursday "indicating your commitment to participate in our future plans" and adds: "He requires your prompt response so that he can finalise his 1997 product plans quickly. Three new UK stores open in February and you could expect orders to be placed with you shortly."

The suppliers are co-ordinating a

response to Petsmart to tell the company that they are not prepared to pay anything. One said: "It's hard to interpret this letter as anything but a demand for money so that you can continue doing business with Pet City."

No one at Pet City's head office in Swindon was able to explain the advantage to suppliers of paying the "nominal fee". Ms Mayer was not available for comment.

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English China Clays International is to shed 300 jobs, a tenth of its payroll, blaming competitive pressures. The jobs will go mainly in the St Austell area of Cornwall.



Harry Stokes, a Datamonitor analyst, said: "New entrants in the UK banking market have brought new products and new technologies which are proving successful in attracting the customer. Banks are now on the defensive."

On its unutilised with-profits business CU maintained annual bonuses at 8 per cent for pensions and 6.5 per cent for bonds. Sales of the Classic Investment Bond and its successor, the Premier Investment Bond, totalled £350 million last year. A £10,000 lump sum invested in February 1992 would be worth £14,097 now, the company said.

The memorandum dictates that production of Airbus planes will be controlled by the company rather than contracted out, as France's Aerospatiale had wanted. British Aerospace, a partner with Germany's Dasa and Spain's

**CARDIFF PROPERTY**, the investment and development company specialising in the Thames Valley area, enjoyed a 9.1 per cent rise in net asset value to 264p a share, from 242p, in the year to September 30. The value of assets improved 7 per cent to £5.8 million, from £5.2 million. Profits rose 15.6 per cent to £292.53 before tax, while earnings rose 13.2 per cent to 7.7p. There is a 1.95p final dividend, making a total of 2.85p (2.75p). The shares were unchanged at 195p.

SERVOMEX, the industrial instrumentation group, is acquiring Montec Holdings from Northumbrian Water for £3.8 million. Montec, which designs and manufactures sampling equipment, monitoring stations and flow measuring instruments for water utilities, incurred an \$887,000 loss in the year to March 31 and is estimated to have lost £3.2 million in the nine months to December 31. This loss mainly reflects the cost of significant restructuring.

PWS Holdings, the specialist reinsurance broking group, held pre-tax profits almost unchanged at £73,000 in the year to September 30, compared with £728,000 despite facing severe margin pressures from intense competition in international insurance markets. Earnings were 1.65p a share (1.52p). The interim dividend rises to 0.65p a share, from 0.5p. Peter Smith, managing director, said the company did not expect margin pressures to ease in the foreseeable future.

**RAYTHEON** looks set to buy Hughes Electronics, the defence arm of General Motors, with a bid of \$10 billion, leaving its rival Northrop Grumman to face an uncertain future (Richard Thomson writes).

The bidding escalated rapidly over the weekend from a starting point of \$9 billion as the potential purchasers battled to get their hands on what may be the last major company to be sold in the current round of consolidation in the US defence industry.

GM chose Raytheon because the offer for Hughes will be paid for largely with

shares — and Raytheon is financially stronger than Northrop. Since GM is taking at least \$6 billion of the purchase price in the shares of the winning bidder, the overall cash value of the bids was not the deciding factor. To avoid a hefty tax bill GM will have to hold the shares for several years.

Raytheon strengthened its hand last week with the \$3 billion purchase of the defence division of Texas Instruments. With the addition of Hughes, which has annual revenues of \$6.2 billion, it will be the dominant US group supplying surface-to-air,

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	Bank Buys	Sea Sales
Australia \$	2.24	2.24
Austria \$	1.81	1.81
Belgium \$	2.73	2.73
Canada \$	2.73	2.73
Denmark \$	2.89	2.89
France \$	2.89	2.89
Germany \$	2.87	2.87
Italy \$	2.87	2.87
Japan \$	2.87	2.87
Portugal \$	2.87	2.87
Spain \$	2.87	2.87
Sweden \$	2.87	2.87
Switzerland \$	2.87	2.87
UK \$	2.87	2.87
USA \$	2.87	2.87

Notes: For small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates may be quoted for cashed cheques. Rates are at close of trading.

Boots rep

0171-782 7344

## LEGAL NOTICES

**BELL NICHOLSON HENDERSON  
LIMITED**  
(ON MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY  
LIQUIDATION)  
**COMPANY NUMBER 109236**  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**  
that, pursuant to s. 133 of  
the Insolvency Act 1986,  
that the Liquidator of the  
above-named company has  
a distribution to the credit  
within four months of the  
date of the winding-up order  
required to submit full details  
of their claims to the Liquidator  
at his office, 20 PO Box 20,  
20 Farringdon Street, London  
EC4A 3DF, on or before the 15th  
February 1997, which is the  
day for proving claims. The day  
above, namely, the 15th February  
1997, is the day for submitting  
creditor's name and address,  
the amount of the claim, and  
particulars of how and when  
the claim was incurred by the  
company.  
Notice is also given that the  
Liquidator will be distributing  
the assets of the company to the  
creditors who will be the only  
distribution to creditors and that  
it will be made in accordance  
with the provisions of the Act.  
Any claims not made by the 15th

**NOTICE**

The Judge for the County Precinct of the District Court of the County of Zurich, has received the following appeal covering the following persons:

**1. JAMES H. MILLER**, born on 12-1-1926 in London, Great Britain, from Zurich and Schuch in Zurich, Switzerland, who has known address approximately 8330 Westmore Ave., Corte-des-Jewes, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, since 1964, meaning since 17-1-1964. Until this date he was not known to have been in Canada, entered Switzerland, where he has been residing since 1964, without authorization. It is presumed that he then left the company, North American Sales, Inc., of Zurich, and that he has been in Canada since 1964. (See EPF-00012).

Any person who can provide information as to the whereabouts of the missing person is requested to contact the District Court of Zurich, within one year of the date of publication of this notice. Failure to do so may result in the person would be declared missing, presumed dead.

Dated at Zurich, Switzerland, 1990  
District Court of Zurich, Judge

**HEADLINE PROPRIETORS**  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY**  
given that the **ST. LOUIS**  
agency **ACT 1986**, that is  
of the credentials of  
hundred company will  
be the **ST. LOUIS**  
Co, situated at 30 E  
Terrace, (2nd Floor) Lo  
161, on 23rd January  
1986, the **ST. LOUIS**  
valid for in Section 9  
It is not intended to  
representations at the  
company. The **ST. LOUIS**  
generation, however the  
may receive information  
or be called upon to ap  
can be prepared to  
of affairs and conce  
meeting.

A list of names and ad  
the company Co. can  
be inspected at the  
Leeward Curds & Co, P  
30 Earbourn Terrace  
Floor, London, E1 6  
the hours of 10.00 am  
on the two business da  
the Meeting of C  
the 28th January 198  
P. SUGGERS, Director

**WITCHAMSTER F L**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF  
JUDICATURE  
DO. 5601 OF 1976  
RE: MARGARET MARSHALL  
vs.  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
BETWEEN: GOSPEPPER  
MARGARET MARSHALL - and  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
NOTICE  
TO: Margaret Marshall, of 20 Chancery  
Lane, London NW2, 6GB, England,  
and  
TAKI MOTONO, who is a Bankruptcy  
Official, of 20 Chancery Lane, London  
NW2, 6GB, England, against you in this court by Geoffrey  
Gospepper, Solicitor, of 20 Chancery  
Lane, London NW2, 6GB, England.  
NWI 2217 and the Court has  
ordered copies of the Petition  
to be served on you by the  
Attorney General, of 20 Chancery  
Lane, London NW2, 6GB, England.  
The Order for substituted service  
was made on 12th March 1976 by  
Margaret Marshall at 20 Chancery  
Lane, London NW2, 6GB, England.  
London NW2, 6GB, England, by publication  
in the London Gazette on 12th March  
1976 and in the Times newspaper on  
12th March 1976.  
You are hereby notified that the  
Order and the time and place fixed

Aérospatiale is keen to co-operate with Lockheed to gain access to a US market dominated by the fast-consolidating domestic manufacturers.

Yves Michot, Aérospatiale's chairman, has met senior executives at Lockheed and will do so again next month. He also said yesterday that he had temporarily halted talks with Germany's Dasa over plans to merge their missiles and satellite activities.

**Tempest, near 30**

The memo was signed as it emerged that Manfred Weiss, A300, the 600-seater airliner that will be in competition with one model and the Boeing

**PWS increases** PWS Holdings, the specialist in pre-tax profits almost tripling in September 30, compared with margin pressures from prices insurance markets. Earnings interim dividend rises to 0.65p managing director, said the co-

**Insurance payout**—The insurance brokerage group, held a net loss of £753,000 in the year to December 31, 1990 despite facing severe competition in international markets. The share price fell 1.65p a share (1.52p). The group, from 0.5p. Peter Smith, chairman, did not expect margin



## LEGAL NOTICES

[illegible]

Note: the company is able to pay all its current obligations in full.

2/28/2019 2:21 January 1997  
 2/28/2019 2:21 Liquidation  
 Company number: 01204046  
 THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986  
 LIMITED  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN  
 pursuant to Section 98 of the In-  
 solvency Act 1986 that a meeting  
 of the creditors of the above  
 company will be held at The Great West  
 Centre, 1000 West, London  
 EC2A 4NR on 20 January 1997  
 at 10.30am for the purpose of  
 electing a liquidator of the  
 said company.  
 Creditors must be lodged  
 with a statement of their  
 claims at the offices of M  
 J BAKER & CO, 1000 West, Lon-  
 don EC2A 4NR, not later than  
 12.00 noon on 17 January 1997  
 if they wish to be present at the  
 meeting, which may include a resolu-  
 tion to appoint a liquidator.  
 The liquidator is to be re-  
 sultant of the meeting may re-  
 ceive the necessary powers for  
 the purpose of preparing the statement  
 of affairs.  
 The meeting may be adjourned.  
 Information concerning the com-  
 pany or its affairs will be avail-  
 able free of charge from  
 the company's liquidator, Mr  
 Michael Insolvency Practitioner,  
 1000 West, London  
 EC2A 4NR, 770, during the  
 period up to the meeting.  
 Dated 19 January 1997  
 M J BAKER & CO  
 1000 West, London

**PURCHASE OF OWN SHARES  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 178  
COMPANIES ACT 1985**

[illegible]

NOTICE IS HEREBY  
pursuant to Rules 43  
11.2 of the Insolvency  
1986, that the Liquidator

a distribution to the  
within four months  
of the date 1977.  
required to submit full  
their claims to the L  
the date of the distri  
No. 730, 50 Fawcetts  
London, NECA 49P can  
be obtained from the  
in the last day for provi  
The full details of  
the distribution will be  
the creditor's name and  
the amount of the clai  
the date of the distri  
debt was incurred  
company.  
The company also gives  
interested in distributi  
creditors will be th  
distributions to credit  
the date of the distri  
any claims not made by  
date for proving claims.  
The company will be  
hands following the  
distribution to creditors  
distributed - see  
absolutely.  
Note: the company is a  
limited liability company  
Dated 2 January 1977  
J J Bateman - Liquidator

**THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986**  
(No. 252) (1986)  
(In Liquidation)  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**  
THAT I, the undersigned,  
FIPA of Popplestone & A  
Charterhouse Square,  
London EC2A 4PU, are the  
liquidators of the said  
members and creditors  
of the said company.

**NOTE: DISTRIBUTION, LIQUIDATION**

The said Petition will be heard at this Court on: Date: The 5th day of February 1997, Time: 11.00 hours, Place: The High Court of

[illegible]

GM appro

# Raytheon

RAYTHEON looks set to buy Hughes Electronics, the defence arm of General Motors, with a bid of \$10 billion, leaving its rival Northrup Grumman to face an uncertain future (Richard Thomson writes).

The bidding escalated rapidly over the weekend from a starting point of \$9 billion as the potential purchasers battled to get their hands on what may be the last major company to be sold in the current round of consolidation in the US defence industry.

GM chose Raytheon because the offer for Hughes will be paid for largely with

val for \$10bn defer

## locks on

shares — and Raytheon is financially stronger than Northrop. Since GM is taking at least \$6 billion of the purchase price in the shares of the winning bidder, the overall cash value of the bids was not the deciding factor. To avoid a hefty tax bill GM will have to hold the shares for several years.

Raytheon strengthened its hand last week with the \$3 billion purchase of the defence division of Texas Instruments. With the addition of Hughes, which has annual revenues of \$6.2 billion, it will be the dominant US group supplying surface-to-air,

## ce takeover

# Hughes

cruise and anti-ballistic missiles.

Raytheon becomes the third largest defence group after Lockheed Martin and Boeing. But Northrup now has few opportunities to expand rapidly through acquisition.

Although it continues to build airframes and supply electronics to larger companies, it no longer builds aircraft after the ending of the B2 bomber programme. It won a small consolation prize in being appointed by the Pentagon as part of a consortium to build a new missile-carrying warship that could lead to multi-billion dollar orders.

100

	Bank Rate	Bank Rate
Australia \$	2.24	2.1
Austria Sch	19.07	18
Belgium Fr	57.73	53
Canada Cdn	1.25	1.25
Canada Cdn	0.828	0.8
Denmark Dkr	6.46	6.1
France Fr	0.37	0.37
France Fr	2.61	2.6
Germany DM	1.21	1.2
Hong Kong S	7.8	7.8
Island	120	120
Italy Lira	0.17	0.17
Japan Yen	5.75	5.1
Japan Yen	359.5	359.5
Japan Yen	180	180
South Korea	0.065	0.055
Netherlands Gld	3.132	2.9
Netherlands Gld	2.05	2.05
Norway Kr	11.25	10.4
Portugal Esc	275.50	275.0
Spain Ptas	164.00	164.00
Spain Ptas	228.00	218.0
Sweden Kr	19.20	11.1
Switzerland Fr	2.42	2.4
Turkey Lira	194.00	182.0
USA \$	1.778	1.64

Rates for airmail remittance from New York to supplied countries. PLC. Different rates apply to transfer companies. Rates set at close of trading.

1

Boots rep



□ Which utilities count as monopolies? □ Mathematics behind the Sears fiasco □ Eleven uses for an old oil rig

## Windfall tax not such a breeze

THOSE of us who suspect that the next couple of months are going to be no fun at all had further evidence yesterday. The debate on a utilities tax was ill-informed even by the degraded standards of today's political climate.

Listen to this contribution from someone called David Davis at the Foreign Office. "Even if a Labour government risked a legal challenge and imposed the windfall tax, Yorkshire families need to know the costs," he thundered. A peculiarly insular view, you might think, especially from the FO, except that Mr Davis represents Boothferry, once within the old Ridings. He has a majority of 17,535, but you can't be too careful, can you?

The theory that a Labour windfall tax could be challenged in the European court is an amusing whimsy, but little more. It is doubtful whether the relevant legislation actually allows such a challenge — Gordon Brown's lawyers seem pretty certain it does not.

It is also doubtful whether, even if the legislation allows a challenge, a Labour government would be minded to pay the court much heed. The £3.5 billion being raised is such a huge chunk of Labour's financial needs that its loss would be a bill too steep to pay. And what better way of establishing Mr Blair's

Euro-sceptic credentials than fighting for the creation of jobs for the young unemployed, and against a Euro-court backing the rights of fat-cat utility bosses?

But there is one huge problem for any windfall tax, over and above the decision on how to levy it. This last is difficult enough: most measures, such as by profits earned, penalise successful enterprises. Even more difficult is deciding on which companies the tax can be applied. It should theoretically only be on monopolies — except that there are precious few left.

British Telecom is no longer a monopoly, and a huge levy would merely be a gift to Mercury and others, by hampering BT's investment plans. Even if you regard BT's network of wires as a monopoly, there are still cellular phones.

BAA is not a monopoly, at least while Luton and Schiphol are open for business. The three power generators are self-evidently not tax them for "excess profits" earned in an oligopoly, and you should tax the four big beer barons, too.

There are only four true

monopolies: the regional water and electricity companies in England and Wales — this lets the Scots off the hook — the National Grid, and British Gas's Transco pipelines. The first three have accepted that there will be a tax if Labour gets in. Set it at the modest levels they are expecting, and you might get away without too much opposition.

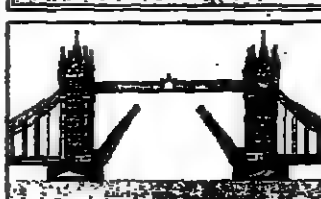
But if the tax is, and is seen to be, unfair and inconsistent, those companies disadvantaged have no choice but to go to law. One appreciates Mr Blair's personal interest in finding work for the legal profession. But he should resist the temptation.

### A Strong and Constant decline

HERE is a question for the mathematically minded: how much is £410 million worth? Is it worth (a) £410 million (b) £223 million, (or c) £200,000. The answer is all three.

Let us explain. The £410 million being handed back to Sears shareholders is worth exactly that amount plus 4.5 per cent if

### PENNINGTON



they put it in the building society. And it is worth a little more than half that amount if left with the Sears management to do with it what they will.

This is an application of what mathematicians call the Strong Constant, a number representing how much of any given investment can be frittered away over time by Liam Strong and his pals. When he became chief executive, on Valentine's Day 1992, the shares were worth £1.

Put the equivalent amount on the FT All-share index, and you would end up today with 162p. Yesterday's bonus for shareholders raised barely a flicker, and the shares ended the day at 88p.

Sears shareholders might have been better off without the

six years' work the management have put in. All those relaunches, the unsuccessful creation of Shoe Express, and the shoe shops will now have to be given away, to allow Sears to concentrate on the two areas it knows best, Selfridges and women's clothes.

A straight sale of the shoe shops would be the cleanest option, but it would require a massive write-down, and the board would probably not survive another such. The shops will have to remain in some form, as an untidy appendage in the form of a minority stake.

Selfridges is a British institution, probably immune to even the Sears management's peculiar skills. As to why women's clothes as opposed to shoes, apparently the latter is a less risky, higher margin market these days — as opposed to five years ago, when women's fashion houses seemed to be going bust all over the place but shoes looked dull but safe.

Sears shareholders will have to hope that that particular wheel does not swing around again. The cash distribution may, however, have ensured another six

months' survival for Mr Strong. In that case £410 million is worth about £200,000 — or the amount he will earn over that period.

### Better Shell than Whitehall

PREDICTABLY, the more imaginative solutions for disposal of the Brent Spar oil storage buoy — notably Pennington's secret plan for a combined offshore European Commission, Court and Parliament — have not made Shell's shortlist of six contractors and 11 schemes.

Most of these seem to involve slicing up the underwater part and filling the ensuing giant steel quoits with concrete or fish. Still, the idea of Shell helping to stop coastal erosion or conserve wild food stocks must appeal to the chaps in public relations.

All such schemes are better than the original plan to sink Brent Spar in the Atlantic. Not that this scheme was desperately bad in this individual case. Despite ministers' stout denials, it was all too clearly a precedent for dumping everything else from

the North Sea into a giant underwater scrapheap. Even if each case were treated "on its individual merits", the merits of cheapness would be as compelling for dumping conventional rigs as for scuttling Brent Spar.

The scuttle remains a possibility because it is still the only solution approved by Whitehall. Anyone who still doubts the case for some of the less popular privatisations should ponder this. Had the North Sea industry remained in state control, public opinion would be ignored to appease the Treasury.

The owner should not be the regulator, whether State or private. In this case, as in the BSE affair, the State could not even be trusted as a supposedly independent regulator. The cost to the company still became paramount because much of that would be recovered in tax relief.

### Over and out

WE must assume the battle for Lloyd's Chemists is all over now, the Germans having no private shareholders to dissuade them from overpaying. Admittedly, the bid seems to have been going on since England last won a cricket tour, but it will in fact be a year on Saturday since the first bid was launched. It probably isn't, but this at least feels like some sort of stock market record.



Peter Wood, left, chief executive of Ellis & Everard, with John Samuel, its finance director, yesterday.

### FKI holding in Newman Tonks grows

NEWMAN TONKS'S hopes of holding off a £196 million takeover bid weakened further yesterday when FKI announced it had captured 20.45 per cent of the door fittings company (Paul Durman writes).

This level of acceptance is 7.1 per cent more than FKI had last month when it launched its bid already holding irrevocable undertakings to accept from M&G and Britannic Assurance. It is rare for a bidder to make such rapid progress.

Newman Tonks is trying to defend a poor recent record that has seen a large fall in its share price.

FKI said it could not recall when a hostile bidder had so quickly won such a high level of acceptance. Newman Tonks urged its shareholders to wait for profit and dividend forecasts.

### Barclays exits 3i with £42m profit

By Robert Miller, Banking Correspondent

BARCLAYS yesterday banked a handsome £42 million profit from the sale of its remaining stake in 3i, the £3.6 billion flagship of the investment trust sector. The sale brings the total amount realised by the bank since 1994, when 3i came to the stock market, to £183 million.

The sale also virtually ends the association of the UK clearing banks with 3i, an investment that stretches back to 1945.

With encouragement from the immediate postwar Government, UK banks and the Bank of England put up funds to back the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation to help rebuild British industry and manufacturing.

In July 1994, after various changes in investment strategy and the change of its

name to the current Investors in Industry (3i), it was decided that the shareholders should put up some or, in the case of the Bank, all of their stakes for sale to private and institutional investors. In the case of Barclays the flotation sell-off netted £46 million.

A year later a further disposal raised some £34 million, and in June 1996 Barclays cashed in shares for £61 million. Barclays said yesterday that the £42 million profit, out of gross proceeds of £59 million, would be included in the banking group's results for the first half of 1997.

The only UK clearer with a remaining stake in what has been a highly successful long-term investment is Bank of Scotland.

3i shares rose 4p to 498½p, a 12-month high.

### LLP names advisers for flotation

LLP, publisher of Lloyd's List and other business titles, yesterday appointed NatWest Markets to advise on its flotation, which may not take place until next year (Eric Reguly writes). Cazenove has been appointed broker.

The flotation plans come a year after LLP, formerly owned by Lloyd's of London, was the subject of a buyout by its management for £82 million.

Management, including David Gilbertson, the former Lloyd's List editor who was appointed managing director of LLP last week, owns 25 per cent of the company.

Among the other investors is MAM Private Equity, the venture capital arm of Mercury Asset Management, which owns a 10 per cent stake.

## Tomkins chief bemoans lack of City recognition

By Paul Durman

AN ENCOURAGING debut contribution from Gates Corporation, the transmission belts company bought last year for £73 million, helped Tomkins to lift first-half pre-tax profits by 24 per cent, to £168.8 million.

However, Greg Hutchings, chairman of Tomkins, said that he was "increasingly frustrated" at the City's reluctance to acknowledge the company's progress. In spite of growing earnings and dividends, Tomkins's share price has lagged the market for several years, held back by the adverse sentiment towards conglomerates. Tomkins is commonly known as the "guns to buns" group, its manufacturing interests spanning everything from Hovis loaves to Smith & Wesson handguns.

Mr Hutchings ruled out using the group's £367 million of net cash to finance a buyback of shares, a favourite City option. He said that Tomkins can see many opportunities to invest, though the work of integrating Gates will probably rule out a big deal for another year or so.

In the 27 weeks to Novem-

ber 2, sales rose from £1.73 billion to £2.16 billion, including £260 million from Gates. Excluding Gates and currency effects, the underlying organic growth in operating profits was more than 10 per cent.

Fully diluted earnings per share rose 17.8 per cent. Tomkins will pay an interim dividend of 3.06p a share, up 13 per cent, on April 11.

Gates, included for only 14 weeks, contributed a profit of £20 million. Tomkins has introduced stricter financial



Hutchings: "frustration"

controls and is spending \$30 million on new information systems. It believes that it will be able to double stock turn, releasing large amounts of cash, and hopes eventually to be able to make savings of \$12 million a year.

Tomkins is cutting costs at all Gates's 49 plants, which also make hoses and connectors. However, the company sees no need for the substantial job losses or plant closures that followed its 1992 purchase of Rank's Hovis McDougall.

Tomkins increased profits in five of its six divisions, the exception being professional, garden & leisure, where they eased to £8.5 million (£8.9 million). Sales of handguns fell back after a surge, while Murray power mowers encountered pricing pressure.

The milling & baking division lifted its contribution to £15.4 million (£13.7 million), with British Bakeries doing well. Food Products, the biggest division, increased profits to £42.6 million (£38.5 million), with good performances from ready meals and Robertson's jam.

Tempus, page 30

### Chemicals firm looks to expand US stake

By Fraser Nelson

ELLIS & EVERARD, the chemicals distributor, is to target North America for its next acquisitions after its British companies helped it to return record profits for the six months to October 31.

Peter Wood, chief executive, said that after its £16.5 million of acquisitions last year, the company was turning its attention to the US where the market was much more fragmented. It is already North America's fifth-largest distributor of chemicals while commanding only 2 per cent of the market.

The company had cash of £19.7 million at the end of the six months, with gearing at 21 per cent (16 per cent). Its US operations, which make up 53 per cent of sales, delivered the strongest performance as gains in its food chemicals markets offset a slide in margins from its established caustics markets.

The strength of the pound trimmed £100,000 from its pre-tax profits, which rose 20 per cent to £15.6 million. Mr Wood gave warnings, however, that the figure was likely to be £600,000 by the year-end if the strong exchange rate remained in force.

Volume gains lifted sales 8 per cent, to £319 million. Earnings were 11.8p per share (10.4p), and an interim dividend of 3.3p is due March 11.

## Boots reports cosmetic boost

By Eric Reguly

A LAST-MINUTE Christmas shopping spree spared Boots from reporting disappointing sales in what has been a generally lacklustre season on the high street.

Boots said sales were slow through most of December but rebounded in the last week, boosting group like-for-like sales 6 per cent in the last quarter of the year. Lord Blyth, chief executive, described the seasonal rally as no more than "satisfactory".

Like-for-like performance in the Boots Chemists division showed a 5.1 per cent rise, with cosmetics and personal care products proving the hottest-selling

items. Boots Opticians reported a 12.2 per cent increase while the Do It All stores appear to have left the worst behind them with a 5.5 per cent improvement.

Halfords, owner of the Bike Shop, was the only business to report a decline, with sales down 3 per cent. Boots blamed the downturn on the harsh weather, though analysts were not entirely convinced by the explanation. Pannure Gordon, the broker, said it would probably leave its full-year earnings forecast for Boots unchanged at £540 million. The shares closed up 13½p at 625p.

Other retailers reported mixed results as the industry failed to reap the full benefits of the economic recovery. Like-for-like sales

at Next, the clothing retailer, were up 9 per cent in the 24 weeks to January 11. Sales at Next Directory, the home shopping catalogue, were 26 per cent ahead. The shares gained 12½p to 541½p.

Sales, excluding petrol, at Wm Morrison Supermarkets rose only 1.2 per cent in the five weeks to January 5. Fierce competition pushed petrol sales down 13 per cent in the period. Shareholders were disappointed by the trading results at Whitbread. The shares fell 21½p, to 740p, as the brewing-to-leisure group rang up an 8 per cent increase in sales in the five-week period starting December 1.

Tempus, page 30

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vertex

Vertex House, Greenacres Business Park, Sneyd Road, Manchester M22 5TX



## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Scottish banks take high road in stronger market

BURNS Night is looming but it seems that the Scots already have plenty to celebrate.

Shares of their own national banks were the toast of the stock market last night after they enjoyed some of the best gains of the day. Credit Lyonnais, the broker, likes the look of both Bank of Scotland, up 11p at 308.5p, and Royal Bank of Scotland, up 10p at 308.5p, ahead of next month's dividend reporting season.

Laird, which has completed much of the buying for recent strong runs by rival banks National Westminster, 10p better at 758.5p, and Barclays Bank, 15p higher at 10.82, says the Scottish pair offer good value for money.

Next month's figures from both companies should reveal a healthy increase in profits and dividends and Laird predicts that there is still further scope for improvement.

Elsewhere in the sector, Abbey National firmed 9.5p to 773.5p, Bank of Ireland 6.5p to 565p, HSBC 36.5p to 13.53p, Lloyds TSB 15p to 488p, and Standard Chartered 11.5p to 693.5p.

The rest of the equity market was able to claw back much of last week's losses on the back of technical rallies in both New York and Tokyo over the weekend and a strong bond market.

Share prices in London surged back through the 4,100 level to close at their best of the day with turnover topping one billion shares for the second time so far this year. The FT-SE 100 index finished 50.7 at 4,107.3, just 15.9 shy of its best ever.

But some parts of the market were starting to look overcooked last night, with worries about a rise in interest rates resurfacing before tomorrow's monthly meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England.

Argos, still reflecting on its recent trading statement, fell a further 18.5p to 604.5p. Sears was unmoved at 88p by the sale of its Freeman's mail order business to Littlewoods for £395 million. Not even plans to return £410 million in cash to shareholders was enough to generate support for the shares, which now stand just up above their worst of the past 12 months.

Last week's calls for the resignation of Liam Strong as chief executive continue to reverberate around the Square Mile despite suggestions that Sears may attempt to demerger its troubled shoe operations.



Lord Blyth, chief executive of Boots, which rose 13.5p

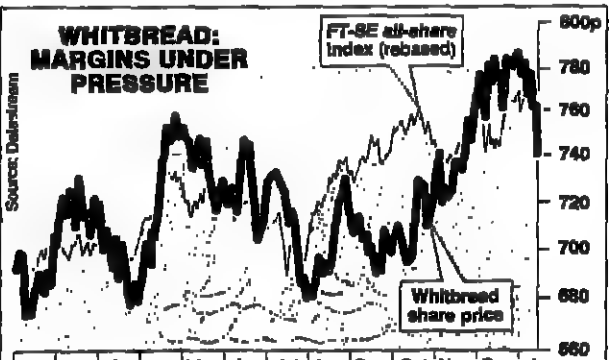
ate around the Square Mile despite suggestions that Sears may attempt to demerger its troubled shoe operations.

Brokers also had a clutch of trading statements from other retailers to contend with. Boots, whose chief executive is Lord Blyth of Rowington, responded to encouraging comments about current trading with a rise of 13.5p at 625p.

Clubpartners was steady at 2.5p. The golf course operator, one of the market's worst performers last year, has staged off the wolves for now. It has sold the Tytherington golf club to PGA European Tour Courses for the equivalent of £1.25 million. Bid talks valuing Clubpartners at 1p a share have also ended.

Buoyant sales of health and beauty products helped to lift group sales in the third quarter to December 31, by 6 per cent. Sales over the Christmas period proved slow although there was a late surge, which has carried on through to the new year.

Next also got the thumbs up for a strong performance showing sales in the 24 weeks to January 11 up 16 per cent.



Whitbread's share price and margins under pressure

entire group at £684 million. This topped a previous offer from Unichem. A further 74 million Lloyds' shares were traded yesterday as Gehe lifted its holding to 52 per cent. Unichem, up 13.5p at 269.5p, still holds 10 per cent of Lloyds.

Increased sales at Whitbread over the Christmas period were offset by an erosion of margins. Rising costs in its food business and take-home beer trade combined to take the shine off an otherwise solid performance which saw overall sales climb 6 per cent. The shares finished 21.5p down at 740p.

Bass put on 10p at 831.5p after a "buy" recommendation from Goldman Sachs, the US securities house. It is impressed by the defensive qualities of the shares and says they should be bought if interest rates rise.

Birse Group, the builder and civil engineer, fell 5.5p to 19.5p in belated response to a late profit warning issued after the close of business on Friday.

The market gave a lukewarm reception to half-year figures from Tomkins, the industrial conglomerate which includes Smith & Wesson guns and Ranks Hovis McDougall. The price touched 285.5p before ending 5p lower at 272.5p.

Photobooks, the printer, raised 8.5p to a new high of 428p after a visit by brokers later today.

GILT-EDGED: The London bond market took its lead from stronger overseas bond markets with prices at the longer end stretching to almost £1. The less than expected rise in factory gate prices cheered sentiment with investors hoping that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, may feel it is enough to resist pressure for a rise in interest rates when he meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, tomorrow.

The March series of the long gilt rose 0.1% to 101.91% as a total of 41,000 contracts were completed. Treasury 3 per cent 2015 was 2% higher at 102.1%, while Treasury 3 per cent 2000 was 1% better at 103.1%.

NEW YORK: A rally in shares of J.P. Morgan boosted the Dow Jones industrial average, which was 13.86 points ahead at 6,717.65 by midday. Analysts said more investors were holding back for fourth-quarter earnings.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 6717.65 (+13.86)  
S&P Composite 754.71 (+1.21)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 18118.79 (+615.14)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng 13289.21 (+97.71)

Amsterdam:  
EEX Index 652.76 (+0.07)

Sydney:  
AO 2422.31 (+3.7)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 2594.95 (+21.38)

Singapore:  
Straits Times 2232.40 (+4.91)

Brussels:  
General 10948.01 (+156.15)

Paris:  
CAC-40 2363.07 (+35.57)

Zurich:  
SIX Gen 898.10 (+5.23)

London:  
FT 30 2781.0 (+19.4)  
FT 100 4107.3 (+50.7)  
FTSE MID 250 4539.4 (+2.1)  
FTSE 250 2043.7 (+2.4)  
FTSE Europe 100 1978.5 (+1.6)  
FT All-Share 1987.5 (+1.6)  
FT Non Financials 1987.5 (+1.6)  
FT Fixed Interest 1987.5 (+1.6)  
FT Govt 50s 1987.5 (+1.6)  
Barracuda 50s 1987.5 (+1.6)  
SEAQ Volume 1090.3m  
US\$ 1.6699 (+0.011)  
German Mark 1.625 (+0.011)  
Exchange Index 957.7 (+0.4)  
Bank of England official close 94.00  
LIBOR 1.300p  
ESOP 1.765p  
RPI 135.9 Nov (2.7%) Jan 1997-100  
RPIX 158.7 Nov (3.3%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Aquarius 173p  
BZW Endowment Red 54  
Centenary 277p  
Eclipse Network 65  
GB Railways 226p  
Hardy Underwear 175  
Highams Sys Svc 140  
Netsol 47p  
Oxford Biomedica 64p  
Parkwood Holdings 74p  
Pilot Technologies 59p  
Sundair 68p  
Sutton Harbour 132  
Wst Brom Albion 122p  
Xenova 234

RIGHTS ISSUES

Compel Op n/p (160) 3p  
Fisher J n/p (120) 10p  
Pressac n/p (180) 50p  
Prism Rail n/p (330) 125  
RPC n/p (142) 6p  
Shaftebury n/p (137) 22  
Wicks n/p (150) 25

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:  
WSP Group 84p (+6p)  
Huntleigh Tech 275p (+25p)  
Weiss 87p (+8p)  
Calm Energy 82.1p (+3p)  
Robert Watson 148p (+10p)  
Savonius 400p (+23p)  
Westmough 420p (+23p)  
Dudley Jenkins 203p (+11p)  
Inspec 195p (+18p)  
Alumasc 388p (+18p)  
Telecom 277p (+10p)  
Eva Halden 281p (+9p)  
Abbott Mead 702p (+24p)  
PS Cons 440p (+18p)

FALLS:  
Argos 604p (-18p)  
Williams Holdings 329p (-7p)  
S&U 401p (-8p)  
RMC Group 887p (-18p)  
Atlas Equip 647p (-10p)  
GKN 788p (-10p)  
Smith Ind 788p (-10p)  
Rank Group 413p (-7p)

Closing Prices Page 33

## TEMPUS

## Fight for the jelly

ONE of the basic laws of British retailing is that Christmas sales never live up to expectations. Excessive optimism from shopkeepers is to be expected — how else can they shift otherwise unsaleable goods? But independent forecasters have been mulling darkly about untidied spending and yesterday the Institute of Directors called for higher interest rates to choke off a consumer boom.

The IOD's concern must be sincere: the organisation would not lightly call for a measure that could kill off all hope of a Tory revival. Yet talk of a high street boom is at odds with statistics from the British Retail Consortium which show weak December sales. In effect, the rate of growth in spending slowed down from 5.0 per cent in October to 4.3 per cent in December just as retailers might reasonably expect a seasonal surge.

What has gone wrong? Yet again, it seems, the end-of-year jamboree has turned out to be a party in which a small number of guests elbowed their way to the table and scooped all the jellies. Yesterday, Next produced some impressive figures to counteract the mild disappointment of Argos last week. The BRC points to widespread pre-Christmas discounting in menswear and sales of children's clothing below last year's levels.

Strip out the effect of inflation and retail spending was up less than 2 per cent in the key month. For retailers, talk of a boom should prompt a hollow laugh and those who are achieving like-for-like growth of more than 5 per cent will be taking sales from competitors. This is still a winner-takes-all business and investors should leave the weak players to their fate.

## Tomkins

HARD as it is to feel sorry for a man who earns more than £1 million a year, one has a twinge of sympathy for the frustration of Greg Hutchings at the weakness of Tomkins's share price. Consistent and above-average growth in earnings and dividends fails to move the market. The latest figures received a typically curmudgeonly response yesterday, the shares dropping 5p to 272.5p. The reason: disappointment that Tomkins has no plans for a share buyback, and analysts being caught on the hop by the 27-week first half.

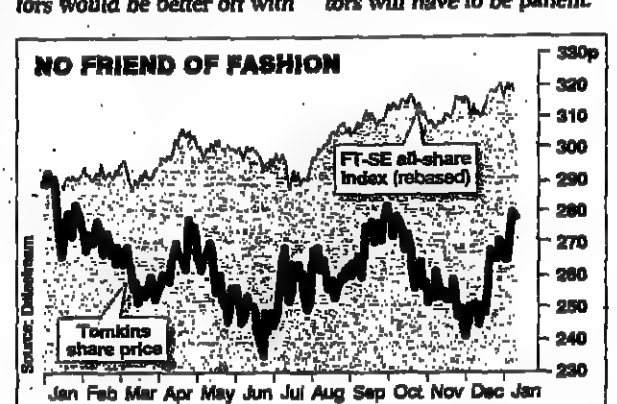
Tomkins argues persuasively that its return on capital dipped only briefly after the RHM purchase and currently runs at 19.2 per cent. The company believes it can still squeeze extra

## margin out of its food business

now switched to Gates, the American transmission belts business bought last year. Stricter controls of stocks and debtors have quickly released a lot of cash, and Tomkins says there is more to come. But if the share price fails to perform, investors would be better off with

## money in their pockets rather than building up

the Tomkins piggy bank. Setting itself against the fashion, Tomkins eschews the demerger option and is keen to hang on to its cash for the next big deal. Mr Hutchings will have his way but that suggests no near-term re-rating for the shares. Investors would be better off with



Tomkins share price and FT-SE all-share index

## Bae

WHILE Airbus Industrie was trumpeting its decision to become a fully fledged company, one of the partners, Aerospaciale, was mulling about co-operation with Lockheed Martin, the US defence behemoth, over the A330, the proposed Airbus successor to the Jumbo. That Aerospaciale is already talking about transatlantic deals before it has put Airbus on a proper commercial footing is yet more evidence, if any were needed, that Europe's aerospace industry is in disarray.

Under the memorandum of understanding, Airbus will become a company, with accounting for costs and profits and an economic value attributed to its assets. Unfortunately, none of this is likely to happen for several years as the partners have to agree on the price at which assets will be injected into the company and British Aerospace's nationalised partners are

## likely to be some way behind

in realising operating efficiencies. In theory, Airbus will eventually be listed as a separate company but this presupposes that the partners can agree on a commercial framework for the company. Nothing that has been said by the French Government over the past few months suggests that the market should assume that aerospace has been allowed to escape from the ministry of sacred cows. Clearly, Aerospaciale has become rattled by the series of mega-mergers in the United States — Europe's cottage defence industry now faces the might of Lockheed Martin, Boeing McDonnell Douglas and will soon encounter a merged Hughes, Raytheon and Texas Instruments.

There may be no harm in Aerospaciale chatting to Lockheed Martin about huge planes that will never be built but its time would be better spent putting Airbus on a more profitable footing before the turn of the century.

## Ladbroke

HENCEFORTH, Hilton Hotels will have the same branding, marketing strategy and loyalty schemes worldwide, and new hotels will be developed jointly by the American and British shareholding companies. Apart from a slight regret that the move will mean more bland uniformity in business hotels around the world, the move looks good for both Ladbroke and Hilton Hotels Corporation. Why then is HHC proposing to buy 5 per cent of Ladbroke?

The only possible reason is that HHC intends in due course to mop up the rest. This is excellent news for Ladbroke shareholders who will benefit from having a floor put under the share price. For HHC the benefits are less clear.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER

## COMMODITIES

ICE-10R (London 100mp)  
CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)

Mar 1997 47.40p  
Apr 1997 47.40p  
May 1997 47.40p  
Jun 1997 47.40p  
Jul 1997 47.40p  
Aug 1997 47.40p  
Sep 1997 47.40p  
Oct 1997 47.40p  
Nov 1997 47.40p  
Dec 1997 47.40p

ROBUSTA COFFEE (\$/MT)

Mar 1997 120.13p  
Apr 1997 120.13p  
May 1997 120.13p  
Jun 1997 120.13p  
Jul 1997 120.13p  
Aug 1997 120.13p  
Sep 1997 120.13p  
Oct 1997 120.13p  
Nov 1997 120.13p  
Dec 1997 120.13p

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Mar 1997 30.40p  
Apr 1997 30.40p  
May 1997 30.40p  
Jun 1997 30.40p  
Jul 1997 30.40p  
Aug 1997 30.40p  
Sep 1997 30.40p  
Oct 1997 30.40p  
Nov 1997 30.40p  
Dec 1997 30.40p

MEAT & LIVESTOCK

USDA: 100lb live steer 107.00p  
100lb live heifer 107.00p  
100lb live cow 107.00p  
100lb live bull 107.00p  
100lb live goat 107.00p  
100lb live lamb 107.00p  
100lb live pig 107.00p  
100lb live turkey 107.00p  
100lb live chicken 107.00p  
100lb live duck 107.00p

Official (Narrow) prev day

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THE TIMES  
CITY DIARY

Ticked off over  
film signing

ANDREW COOK, the boss of William Cook, had his first scent of victory yesterday. In the face of the hostile bid from fellow metal-basher Triplex Lloyd and its chief executive, Graham Lockyer, a major shareholder had withdrawn its support for Triplex. He triumphed taking £1 million worth of shares out of the enemy's camp. To celebrate, he composed another of the snappy silver-tongued soundbites he has become so famous for. "If all Mr Lockyer can say to justify the bid is that both companies tip metal into moulds, I feel very worried for Triplex Lloyd's shareholders," he waxed.

Easy tiger. Step forward a rather red-faced Jim Cox, director of UK Investments at Schroders, who sheepishly explained that the merchant bank had signed its £1 million to Triplex by mistake; someone in the building "ticked the wrong box" on the acceptance form.

Snout to laugh at

CONGRATULATIONS to Cedric on the birth of her seven piglets. The sow that was curiously named after Cedric Brown, the former chief executive of British Gas, is nursing her offspring after the "fat cat" of the privatised industries. One has already been christened Desmond after Sir Desmond Pither, the United Utilities boss. The GMB general union, Cedric's union, who revealed in this column that its prize pig was pregnant, is said to be delighted by the news.



"I can remember when the bidding first started"

Write off

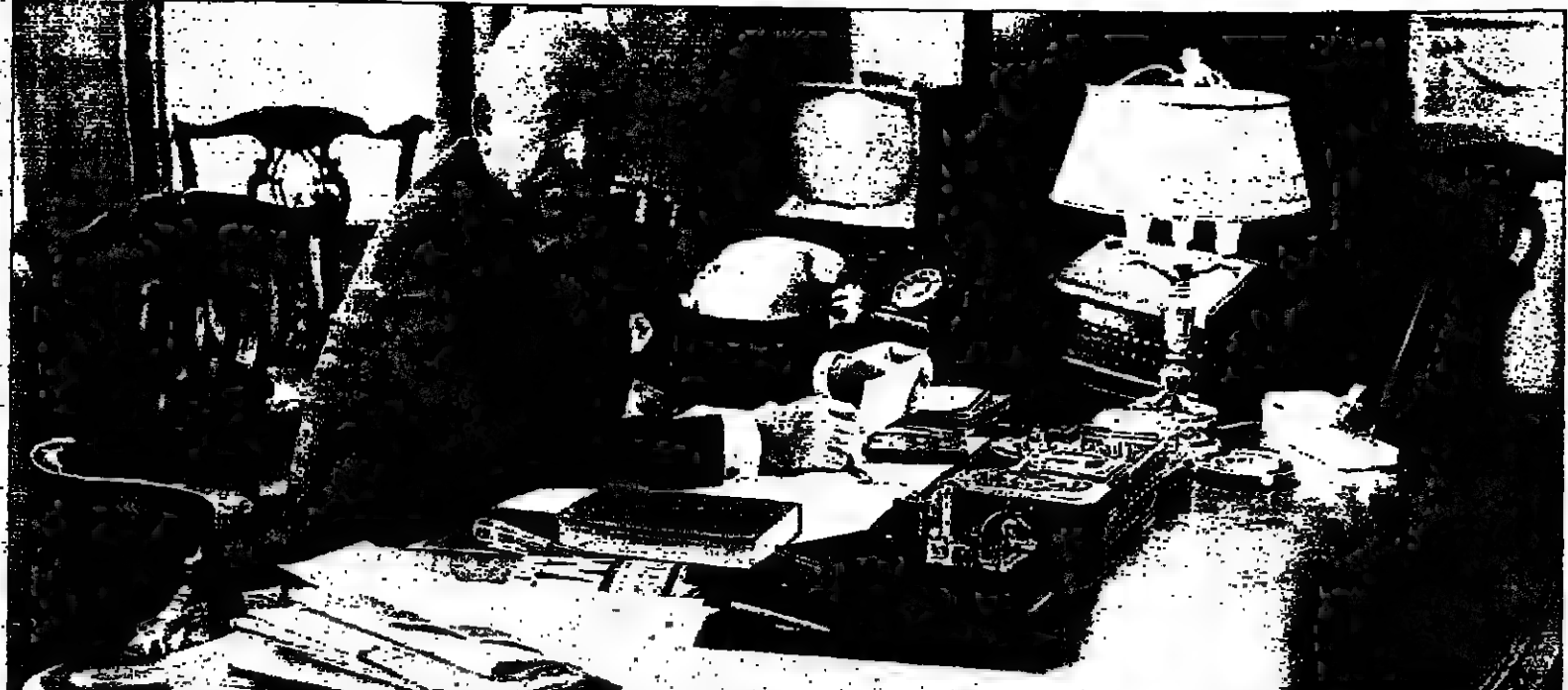
JOHN TINER, the part-time author and head of Arthur Andersen Financial Markets since 1993, will be struggling to find time to write. He has just been promoted from head of AAFM's UK practice to head of its worldwide practice. The Bank of England investigation into the Barings collapse, investigating the \$1bn loss by Daiwa Bank in New York, recommending the way forward for the Bank of England's supervisory arrangements and assisting Imro with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell are just some of the strings to his bow.

GULF Canada be warned — Clyde Petroleum was in top form at the oil and gas industry annual quiz. But is it any wonder when you hear how easy the questions were. For example, who is president of Gulf Canada?

Hardern luck

THE irrepressible Michael Hardern is reeling after hearing that there is no vacancy this year on the board of Loughborough Building Society. Too bad then that the chief carpet-bagger backed Andrew Martin, a local IT manager, to stand for election. On the basis that four directors were voted in last year, three seats will be available next year, and five in 1999. Hardern is claiming that it's an incredible coincidence. Meanwhile, Geoff Caves, deputy chief executive and secretary at the Loughborough, insists "It is pure coincidence."

MORAG PRESTON



Sir Charles Clore, known as the "takeover king", who founded the British Shoe Corporation which, at its height, dominated shoe retailing

# Sears needs the Clore magic to step back into City favour

Sarah Cunningham on the prospects for Liam Strong after the Freemans disposal

When the legendary Sir Charles Clore, founder of the Sears retailing empire, was asked for the secret of his success, he would reply: "Find the opportunity and work hard." No one claims that Liam Strong, chief executive of Sears, does not work hard. But his record for finding and making the most of opportunities is patchy — to say the least.

The £395 million sale of Freemans to Littlewoods is viewed as an effort to satisfy increasingly disgruntled investors, who can now expect to receive £40 million through a share buyback this year. As one cynical analyst put it: "Strong is using shareholders' money to bribe shareholders in order to save his own skin." But while the deal may 'buy him time', it's hardly a coup for Mr Strong — the previous management at Sears paid £477 million for the business nine years ago.

and changed its name to Sears Holdings the following year. A year later he added Dolcis and Mansfield and then formed the British Shoe Corporation in 1957 to embrace his footwear interests. Over the next ten years he added Mappin & Webb and Garrard & Co, as well as Selfridges in Oxford Street and Lewis Department Stores to his empire.

The son of an East End tailor who had emigrated from Russia to escape anti-Semitic violence, Charles Clore's extraordinary career began when he bought and then sold the South African film rights to the Tunney-Dempsey world heavyweight championship fight in 1924. He went on to buy Cricklewood ice-skating rink and the Prince of Wales Theatre in Leicester Square, and later added the Furness Shipbuilding Company.

managed by his old friend Leonard Sainer, soon became a mighty force in retailing. British Shoe Corporation included the Dolcis, Lilley & Skinner, Mansfield and Freeman Hardy Willis chains and at its height was responsible for one in four UK shoe sales.

Sir Charles died in 1974 a tax-exile in Monaco, but his story did not end there. He wanted his £100 million fortune to go to charity but it became snared in a legal tug-of-war between the Inland Revenue and Alan Clore, his son. Even more bizarrely, four years after Sir Charles' death his butler, Ronald Headford, who had continued to live in his late employer's Monte Carlo home, committed suicide after being accused of stealing art treasures worth £3 million from the house.



Sir Charles launching the Cathy McGowan "Trend Steppers" in 1966

At first things seemed to go his way and in April 1994 he felt he could say "we are no longer in the recovery phase". But the company was soon back on the critical list. Analysts say that anyone who thinks Mr Strong, who had no retailing experience before starting at Sears, is being judged harshly should take a look at the group's share price performance — 100p when he took over and now 58p, bolstered by the prospect of a buyback.

The most embarrassing episode for Mr Strong came last year when Facia, the retail business built up by Stephen Hinchliffe, collapsed and the leases on the 380 shoe shops Mr Strong had "sold" to that company reverted to Sears. There were always doubts about how Mr Hinchliffe could manage his array of retailing operations. The doubts, which appeared not to penetrate the Sears' boardroom, eventually reached the Department of Trade and Industry, which started proceedings to disqualify him as a director.

It is accepted that Sears is an extraordinarily difficult business to manage, but apparent miracles have happened in retailing before. Next went from being City darling to pariah and then regained its darling status after the management changed. Burton has been transformed under John Hoerner, its amiable American chief executive.

The glory days of Sears are long gone but it still has Selfridges and some strong clothing brands, and even its competitors want it to recover some of its sparkle. A big-spending empire-builder would not be right for the times, but a bit of Clore's famous Midas touch would go down a treat. As one head of a major high street retailer said: "There aren't many merchant princes out there, but what Sears needs is a merchant prince."



JANET BUSH

# Japan bows to its critics

Japan's economic helmsmen are already tackling through the treacherously narrow sea channel between Scylla and Charybdis. But their navigational task is being made almost impossible by an aggressive flotilla of foreign craft, sailing under the flag of self-interest and market orthodoxy, harassing them from all sides.

For a nation that has, to many Western eyes, often seemed so self-reliant, so inward-looking, Japan now subjects itself to an extraordinary degree of outside pressures and opinion. The most recent example came last week when its business and financial leaders politely listened to a lecture from none other than Kenneth Clarke on why Japan ought to undertake structural reform of its economy and presumably become, like Britain, an international economic success story. One can only admire our Chancellor's cheek, but can one really imagine the furor if Japan's Finance Minister came to London and pontificated on how to emulate Japan's record on manufacturing exports, investment and permanently low unemployment?

from America, the Japanese finance ministry was at pains yesterday to reassure Washington that its current account surplus is still shrinking. And, even as the stock market has plunged since the new year, the authorities have made it clear that they do not want a further softening of the yen. So Japan, already unable to lower interest rates any further to stimulate the economy, is denying itself monetary easing through the exchange rate.

At the same time, it is under enormous pressure from the gatekeepers of the prevailing world economic orthodoxy to tighten fiscal policy. This was one of the main new year messages from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. There is no doubt that the years of fiscal stimulation in the 1990s have left Japan with a budget problem, but it is highly questionable whether this should be tackled while the economic recovery — and particularly the banking system — is still so vulnerable. Japan faces a critical situation in which economists are busy calculating how far the Nikkei stock market index has to fall for Japanese banks to fail to meet international capital adequacy standards. At the same time, they are arguing that, if Japan fails to raise taxes, the stock market will fall even more catastrophically.

Japan's relationship with America is a far more important example of Tokyo bending to the international will. US insistence that Japan cut its huge trade surplus led to a sharp appreciation in the yen, leading to recession and then stagnation, which has made it hard for Japan to recover from the bursting of its 1980s-style asset price bubble.

Having been brought to its knees — in relative terms — Japan is still not free to pursue its own national interest. On one hand, it is still being hemmed in by America on the matter of trade. Yesterday, Japan's latest current account figures were published and showed a continuing, but slowing, decline in the surplus that attracts such international ire. Far from applauding the fact that the yen's depreciation from its postwar high of 79.75 to the dollar in April 1995, is now helping to inject some much needed exporting power back into an otherwise hamstrung economy, the Japanese authorities are frightened to enjoy this breath of economic life.

Scared that further falls in the yen and a halt to the process of cutting its current account surplus will start another round of brow-beating

So, Japan is being denied full use of monetary and fiscal policy. On top of this, as Mr Clarke's contribution last week suggested, Japan is being told on all sides that it must restructure its economy, deregulate its financial system and other sectors and open up its markets. In its latest report, the OECD praises Japan's exceptional record on employment but says that economic restructuring will naturally mean having to accept a higher level of unemployment.

Japan undoubtedly faces serious long-term economic problems, but is the solution to saddle itself with the economic (and fiscal) woes of mass unemployment that face other mature industrialised countries? A cynic might conclude that America and others are happy for Japan to fail its own people economically as long as it continues to provide a market for their exports and buyers for their government bonds.

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### Needless surrender of hard-won funds for an annuity

From Mr Peter M. Smith  
Sir, As someone who frequently advises the "end users" of pension schemes, I am often saddened by the waste and futility of people surrendering their hard-won funds to insurers in the purchase of annuities. The insurance industry even has a ghastly jargon title for this process: "compulsory purchase annuities".

Whilst annuities can remain as the ultimate income provision for those who are security conscious, there is no real reason in these days of investment sophistication why pension holders should ever have to annuitise their funds. The

recent correspondence in your columns has brought this out clearly.

The legal and practical objections to eliminating compulsory annuity purchase are quite slim. A tax adjustment could be made on the ultimate passing out of the pension fund to the family of a deceased member, if it were thought appropriate.

Pensions funds may well be needed to pay the costs of long-term care and the inflexibility of annuities is often inappropriate. Unfortunately, it seems likely that only a substantial protest will convince the authorities that the sequestration

of money contributed largely by the public for its own retirement should cease. Any one who thinks similarly should write to their Member of Parliament.

However, MPs are beneficiaries of a "final salary" scheme, but maybe a switch to "money purchase" pensions would concentrate their minds a bit!

Yours faithfully,  
PETER M. SMITH,  
Editor, Financial & Tax Planning Through Pensions,  
The Laurels,  
Weybridge Park,  
Weybridge,  
Surrey.

### Power prices have a long way to fall

From Mr Gordon K. Moore  
Sir, David Porter (Business Letters, December 31) states that prices for electricity customers are being driven down relentlessly. Compared with 1991 prices of 4d per unit running costs for East Midlands consumers, they have a long way to fall yet. 480 units for £1, then allowing for RPI changes (ONS figures) the cost today should be 32 for £1.

Modern technology, greater thermal efficiency, improved load factor and the benefits of R and D, should all combine to reduce the price even further.

Despite the difficulties of the post-war decade, running costs of 4d per unit for domestic consumers was wonderful value, not matched today. The excellent appliance hire scheme, with prompt free maintenance, no longer exists.

Clearly there is a far more costly supply and significantly less service today — why?

Yours faithfully,  
GORDON K. MOORE  
51 St. Clare's Close,  
Farley Road,  
Littleover Hill,  
Derby.

### Alternative measures of a company's prosperity

From Mr David H. O'Brien  
Sir, It is no surprise that directors are biased towards shareholders' expectations (Philip Bassett, December 20, and Graham Searjeant, January 2). Share prices are the only measures of company performance available to other stakeholders.

Environmental protection legislation and ever tightening business regulations have

caused companies to measure factors which were previously dismissed as unmeasurable or of no consequence to companies' prosperity. Directors and other employees are beginning to appreciate that personal behaviour can adversely affect the consents by which businesses operate.

Businesses can be brought into balance only when the total workforce appreciates

the legitimate requirements of all their major stakeholders. The prosperity of the business depends upon the workforce adequately and cost-effectively fulfilling those requirements.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID H. O'BRIEN,  
Centre for Service Management Studies,  
14 Charvil House Road,  
Reading,  
Berkshire.

### A question of honour and the failure of self-regulation at Lloyd's

From Mero Tetby  
Sir, I am extremely dismayed that David Rowland should head the New Year's Honours List in recognition of his having "launched Lloyd's on its new path".

Are memories really so short? This new path was necessary only because the Council of Lloyd's, of which Mr Rowland was a prominent member, failed miserably to execute its self-regulatory duties and to prevent its self-inflicted crisis.

Let us remember that the failure of the Council of Lloyd's to self-regulate allowed the emergence of malignant practices such as the LMX spiral/churning, gross misrepresentation, incompetence and negligence, and for these to run riot.

It was these practices that led directly to the worst portended losses in the history of Lloyd's PR, as financial ruin

for thousands of innocent people.

Seldom is it mentioned that as a broker Mr Rowland benefited financially when Lloyd's went off the tracks, and then again when as chairman of Lloyd's he was assigned the task of rectifying the damage caused. For this he has received an exorbitant salary and a £400,000 bonus from Lloyd's.

Nobody at Lloyd's deserves

an award, and a reward for burning its own boats. The fact is that Mr Rowland has simply devalued the awards made to those whose achievements are truly worthy of recognition.

Yours faithfully,  
MERO TETBY,  
Brickie Farm,  
College Farm Road,  
Belton-in-Rutland,  
Leicestershire.

### Disagreeable choice

From Mrs Josephine Boyle  
Sir, One aspect of the delay on the payout of Lloyd's names (December 20 and 21) has been overlooked by your commentators.

While Lloyd's has been unable to repay the surpluses due to names by the date they anticipated, they have not extended the deadline they

impose on transfers to the Special Reserve Fund.

This meant that the affected names, like myself, were presented last month with a disagreeable choice. They had either to raise the money they intended to transfer elsewhere at very short notice, possibly incurring interest, or they would have been forced to forgo the appreciable benefits of careful financial

and taxation planning. I think most names concerned would have been less put out by the delay if the deadline for the Special Reserve Transfer had been adjusted accordingly.

Yours faithfully,  
JOSEPHINE BOYLE,  
Beacon Hill House,  
Langhar,  
Ilkley,  
West Yorkshire.

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## BRIEFINGS

Two new agents have been appointed by Linc. the Local Investment Networking Company, set up in 1987 as a non-profit-making business angels organisation matching private investors to companies seeking finance. The new agents, bringing the total to 12, are Cardiff & Vale Enterprise, serving South Wales, and the CBV Enterprise Centre, covering South London, Surrey and Sussex. Details: 0171-236 3000.

A fifth of Britain's micro-businesses are run by people whose main motivation is to avoid unemployment and who claim to have no alternative, says the latest survey by NatWest and the Small Business Research Trust. Nearly a third of businesses also told researchers they wanted to remain at their existing size.

A set of three computer disks to help small businesses to chase debts has been developed by CCA Software in conjunction with a firm of solicitors. The software's functions include threatening letters in suitable legal wording, documents for county court actions, and other legal advice. The disks cost £24.95 each, plus VAT. Details: 0161-429 7045.

An information technology diagnostic service has been introduced by Kingston Chamber of Commerce in Surrey, offering days' free consultancy to member businesses that want advice on matters such as which equipment to buy and how to upgrade. Details: 0181-296 9595.

## Keeping them in stitches

David Askham on  
a thriving small  
business that  
kits out keen  
cross-stitchers

Jane Greenoff had trained as a state registered nurse but when she was expecting her first child in 1983 she took up something quite different. She and a neighbour each invested £50 and began designing and marketing cross-stitching kits. After becoming the sole proprietor, she called her new business the Inglesome Collection, after the name of her cottage, and gradually built up sales.

She designed exclusive patterns of Cotswold scenes, assembled and packaged the components and travelled around her local area marketing her creations. Kits, which range from £3.50 to £45, make life easier for both novice and more accomplished cross-stitchers.

Bill, her husband, joined the business full time in February 1990. Mr Greenoff's career had been in banking, but in his spare time he was already handling much of the Inglesome Collection business accounting.

In the early days, Mrs Greenoff had employed an agent for marketing her kits out of area. Only when her husband took over this role did they realise the huge advantage of a dedicated marketing effort. A good



Bill and Jane Greenoff show off some of their successful range of Inglesome Collection cross-stitch kits

example of Jane Greenoff's early initiative was her offer to produce a design of Liberty's architecturally interesting store in London. She even demonstrated her cross-stitching skills in-store and her presentation skills led to her co-presenting a commercial video with Pam Ayres. Mrs Greenoff also became a prolific author of books on cross-stitching.

The Greenoffs employ several full and part-time workers in a

small workshop in Fairfield, Gloucestershire, meeting demand throughout the UK, Europe and North America. Despite having produced about 1,000 original designs, Mrs Greenoff says: "We maintain around 250 of our current designs and aim to produce 45-50 new ones every year. We are constantly inspired by scenes and subjects from the natural world. We have also expanded our range to include gold and platinum

needles, stitchers' jewellery and reproduction ivory and mahogany stitcher gifts."

Earlier this year the Greenoffs launched The Cross Stitch Guild, which has its headquarters in Longleat, near Warminster. Already 2,175 members have enrolled who receive a special bimonthly guild newsletter.

The Inglesome Collection is on 01285 712778.

## Home advantage for businesswomen

By Rodney Hobson

The experience of running a family gives women the edge when organising and setting up a business, research by Barclays Bank indicates. After talking to 400 small businesses run by men and women, the bank concluded that women's key advantages over men include being better organised and having a greater determination to succeed.

Although entrepreneurs generally agree that women face more barriers, nine out of ten women now say that it is easier for them to start a business. Initial barriers, such as not being taken seriously by business contacts and sexual discrimination by customers and suppliers, gradually diminish. Surprisingly, Barclays found that few women complained that they were under pressure to stay at home. Some 86 per cent of women said they received support from their partners and family when starting up, compared with 84 per cent of men.

David Laverack, small business services director at Barclays, says: "Cultural change, together with technological advances, better provision of childcare, improved access to education and greater security in their partners' employment prospects have all encouraged women to take the plunge."

He says that, contrary to popular belief, running a small business can have a positive impact on home life. More than 40 per cent of women

entrepreneurs said the quality of their home life had improved since they started a business, even though they remained primarily responsible for household duties such as shopping and domestic chores.

Yet men feel work pressures cause their home life to deteriorate. The latest issue of Barclays Review, a newsletter for small businesses, says most respondents expect to see more women entrepreneurs in the future. The main motivation, Barclays found, is independence. Making a lot of money becomes important only when the business has been running for some time, especially for younger women.



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Company	Price	Change	PE
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Beauty for  
your daily

## Impressionism in wax

مكة: من الأصل





■ VISUAL ART 1

Defiant and unclassifiable, Tony Cragg's big new sculptures go on show at the Whitechapel



■ VISUAL ART 2

... while in Spain an earlier sculptural genius — the inspirational Medardo Rosso — is celebrated

THE TIMES  
ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

Patron in the frame: Janet de Botton tells why she is giving 56 works to the new Tate at Bankside



■ TOMORROW

How to hit Broadway: a new book reveals how top musicals are constructed

VISUAL ART: Exhibitions of ground-breaking sculptors a century apart; and a public airing for a private collection

# Beauty found in our daily junk

At the Whitechapel Richard Cork notes that custom, and fame, have not staled Tony Cragg's infinite variety

Now in his late forties, and enjoying an extensive international reputation, Tony Cragg might have been tempted to slip into complacency and repetition. He did, after all, play a prolific and inventive part in reviving British sculpture throughout the 1980s. Working first with plastic and other discarded materials, scavenged from beaches or the streets of Wuppertal, in Germany, where he settled 20 years ago, Cragg discovered how to turn even the most ordinary objects into powerful, provocative forms.

Now, in his first exhibition for an English public gallery since 1989, he is displaying work of the 1990s at the Whitechapel. And although his preoccupations remain consistent with the young artist whose emergence excited so much interest, there is no sense here of standing still. Quite the opposite: Cragg seems incessantly on the move.

The hefty dimensions of several pieces in the Whitechapel's main, nave-like space might tempt us to suspect him of succumbing to middle-aged monumentalism. But the size of Cragg's largest recent works is deceptive. Rather than degenerating into grandiosity, they can be ranked among his most unpredictable, deft and mysterious inventions.

Take the brazen form, careering across the floor of the street-level gallery. It bulges as wantonly as a series of newly inflated, interconnected balloons. But there is nothing overblown about its intrusion of space. Sprouting an outside nipple, at one end and curling up like a plump tail at the other, this engorged apparition seems quite capable of undergoing a transformation. The title of the work has already been altered. Originally called *Boys*, it is now listed as *Boy*. Although such a change may seem merely capricious, it underlines the density of meanings which Cragg's

sculpture can harbour. Despite its apparent bulk, this work is made from lightweight Styrofoam and kapok. It therefore appears eminently fit for floating in the most turbulent sea; but its swellings are at the same time organic and erotic enough to evoke the human body. Viewed in this light, the shifting title makes sense. Cragg's devour-

Even the grandest ensembles turn out to be vulnerable

ing curiosity about the interplay between himself and his surroundings ensures that he never sees anything in isolation. No sooner has a shape manifested itself in his mind than it starts to shed one identity and become something else. That is why his mercurial drawings, displayed upstairs as the fruit of a productive recent period at the Henry Moore Studio in Dean Clough, Halifax, are so enthralling. At once flowing and wiry, his defining line seizes on the essence of a form with ease. But just as the contours of a vessel become clear on the paper, we realise that it is changing into a land-mass. Or, rather, the two possibilities coexist in the same image.

Cragg's restless intelligence as a draftsman is reminiscent of Leonardo's. An instinctive fascination with science unites both men, and so does a refusal to regard scientific issues as separate from other concerns in their inquiring minds. The time Cragg spent working as a laboratory technician

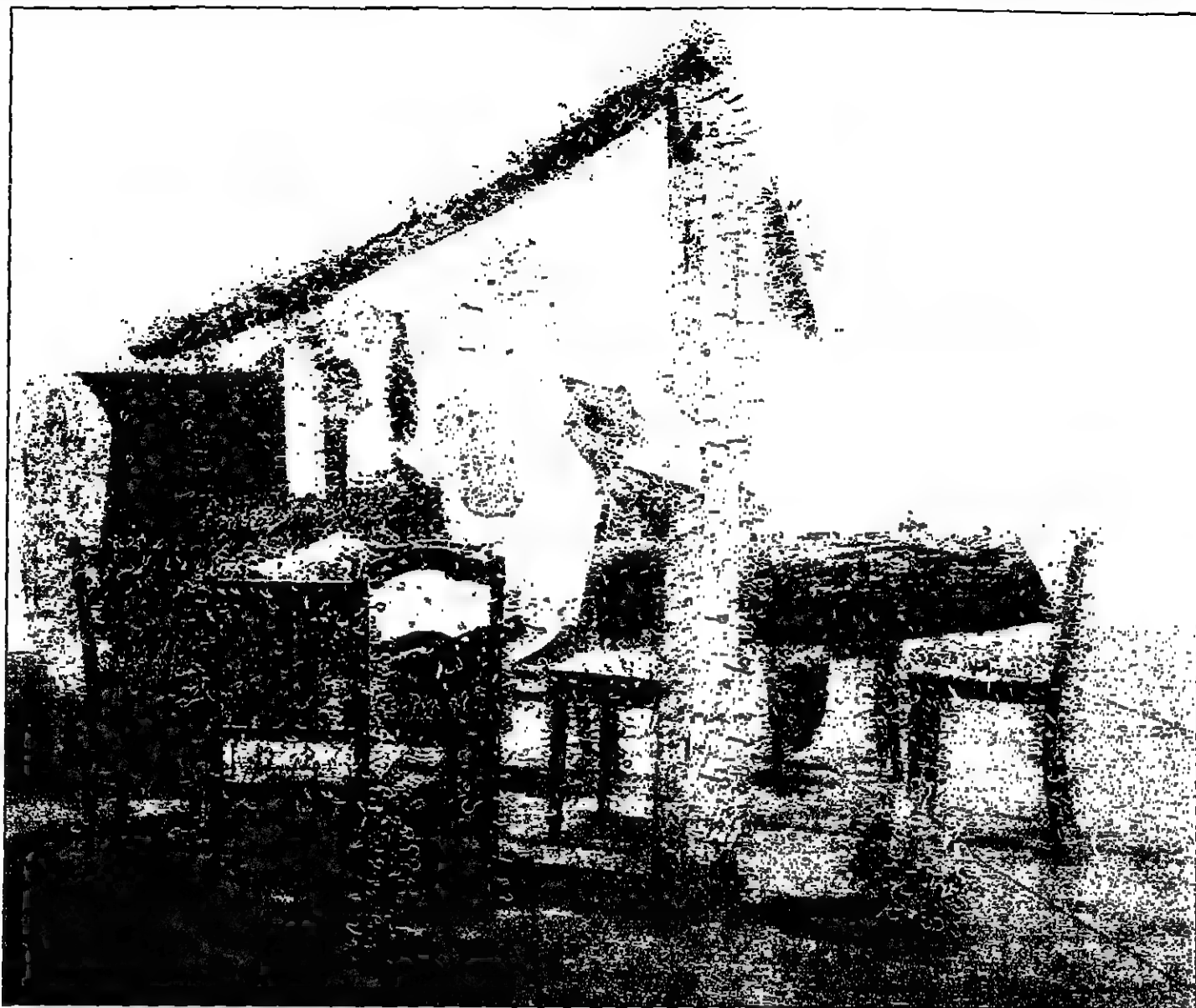
before going to art school must have been illuminating, and probably ignited his enduring involvement with beakers and condensers of all kinds.

At the outset of his career, Cragg's vessels were usually found objects made of plastic. Now he is more likely to make them himself, but his ability to persuade us of their surprising expressiveness is undiminished. Sandblasted glass bottles of different sizes and shapes bristle as they project from every side of *Spyrogyra*, where a whirling steel frame seems on the point of setting them in ecstatic motion. Their subdued colours, ranging from soft blue and green to rich brown and a dusty plum redolent of long storage in wine-cellars, are seductive. But the bottles also threaten to spiral out of control, and a neighbouring cornucopia has already descended to the floor.

Even the grandest ensembles turn out to be vulnerable. Both versions of *Forminifera* present us with bleached plaster forms, some lying like broken pieces of classical architecture and others balanced on steel holders that resemble precarious trestles. These white presences may derive from containers, but they end up looking otherworldly and tantalising. Moreover, their surfaces are punctured with holes, like porous rock worn away by the action of water.

Similar references to the man-made and the natural can be found in many of Cragg's works. At his most bizarre, he smoothes a green piano and several nearby chairs in a glinting, menacing blizzard of small metal hooks. But the same implements also spring out of timber pieces lodged inexplicably among the furniture, suggesting that nothing can escape the hooks' rapacious advance.

Cragg, however, is not a pessimist. Sardonic humour erupts in his most macabre work, most notably when he exposes the plas-



Untitled (1993): "At his most bizarre, Cragg smothers a green piano and several chairs in a menacing blizzard of small metal hooks"

ter teeth of a primordial skeleton in a sculpture called *Complete Omnivore*. Redoubtable in size, they are on one level grotesque manifestations of grinding power. They are also wily funny, and acknowledge that humanity's survival has depended on its capacity to feed off matter of all kinds. Cragg could himself be described as omnivorous in his attitude to materials. If plastic cannot be found in this exhibition, he is still prepared to go far beyond the sculptor's traditional wood, stone and bronze. Indeed, he has always been able to persuade us that late 20th-century materials are just as beguiling as their predecessors.

From a distance, *Nautilus* may

seem to be hewn from white marble. The fact that it is made of Styrofoam and fibreglass may alter our perception of the work, but does not impair its ability to delight. The five bulbous yet elegant forms congregating so deftly on a circular ledge are complemented, like a reflection, by five more below. The title suggests that Cragg may have taken the wriggling bodies of cuttlefish or octopus as his springboard. By the time he finished with them, though, their resemblance to molluscs was no longer dominant.

Over the past few years, as his sculpture has grown more audacious in formal terms, Cragg has resisted any attempt to identify a

particular work as a single, nameable object. If molluscs did indeed nourish him at the start of *Nautilus*, its forms are now equally suggestive of moons, jugs, pillars and a host of different organisms.

Everything, in Cragg's encompassing vision of the world, is interrelated. He appears as fascinated by molecules as by mountains, and in an outstanding two-piece work called *Secretions* the minuscule and the majestic are both kept at the forefront of our attention. In the lower of the two parts, vessels seem once again the starting-point for these enigmatic forms. But they are soon overtaken by a rush of other possibilities, and the higher, more Baroque part

rears into the air like some fantastic, twisted outcrop. Inspection discloses that the whole of *Secretions* surfaces is studded with hundreds of dice. They are a marvellously poetic way of showing how even the most awesome structures are built up, and how chance plays its part in determining the shape of the world. Cragg's work is replete with such insights, as this triumphant exhibition shows.

● Tony Cragg, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 10 1JZ 10171-322 7878 until March 9. Cragg's latest large sculpture, *Pillars of Salt*, is on view at the Lisson Gallery, 52-54 Bell Street, London NW1 0JF 10171-724 2739 by appointment only

## Impressionist in wax

A Spanish show of work by the 19th-century sculptor Medardo Rosso is attracting worldwide attention

Tony Cragg says that Rosso transformed the practice of making sculpture into a form of thinking with material. Thomas Schütte sees his sculptures as "roughly sketched shapes, the preliminaries, the tiny crumbs which remain as the most thrilling of the 19th century". Juan Munoz, describing the work as *écriture*, says: "The man writes quickly, believing that the best words are those which are worn away at the edges".

So who is this obscure late-19th-century artist who can unite in enthusiasm the erstwhile virtuoso of coloured plastic fragments and the leading German and Spanish exponents of the installation? And why is the most comprehensive exhibition ever of Medardo Rosso's work being staged in the Centro Gallego de Arte Contemporánea, more than a century after most of the pieces were made, and bringing avant-gardists of all persuasions flocking from all over Europe and the Americas in new but equally devout pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela?

Clearly the sculpture speaks to a far more understanding audience now than it did in the 1880s and 1890s. Rosso lived and worked in Paris for much of his life (1858-1928). He was a friend of Rodin, and the temptation is to see him as a close equivalent of Rodin, working almost entirely in miniature. Though there are correspondences between Rosso and the liquid, dissolving shapes of Rodin's *Gates of Hell*, in fact the two artists are almost diametrically opposite in their approaches. This is less apparent when Rosso is seen primarily in professionally cast bronzes editioned from his wax originals. But when, as in this epoch-making show,

almost the whole oeuvre is assembled in the forms conceived by Rosso himself, the contrast is amazing.

Rosso has been called an Impressionist in sculpture, and there is much truth in this. As in a Monet landscape, the subject is merely the pretext for the study of light: how it moves across a surface, how it penetrates a translucent medium and is re-reflected. For this, the qualities of the wax, its colour and texture, are vitally important. Bronze tends to repel light, while wax attracts it and glows. But Schütte also has a point when he claims that Rosso is the opposite of the Impressionists, his art being essentially about erosion and wear and tear, long time and decay. It depends whether you see the fragile wax structures as just coming into existence, or caught on the verge of destruction.

The great novelty of the show — apart from its rigorous concentration on complete authenticity — is the showing, for the first time, of the considerable body of photographs Rosso made in connection with his sculptures. For him they were not, as with the Rodin photographs, a means of documentation, but works in their own right, alternative versions of such recurrent subjects as the *Laughing Child*, the *Sick Girl* or the *Dickensian Bookmaker*. The effect of these pictures, now themselves literally trembling on the edge of extinction, is intensely moving, and deeply symbolic of Rosso's deceptively fragile, deceptively enduring art.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

● Centro Gallego de Arte Contemporánea, Santiago de Compostela until Feb 23



Head boy: Medardo Rosso's *Bambino Ebreo* (1892-93) — sculpture as "a form of thinking with material"

THE labyrinthine maze of the newly restored Mith gallery is a perfect setting for Steve Farrer's film installation. It is a formal affair, with layers of interwoven imagery. Farrer uses shot film, ready-made film and still photographs and has them playing in contradictory fashion in an almost Cubist arrangement. Water on the basement floor reflects back hugely extended family stills, while upstairs a Humphrey Bogart film, playing continuously, changes viewpoint across a triptych of huge screens. The show makes a powerful spatial play between two and three dimensions. Mith, 144 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 0JF 0171-379 4338 until Saturday

### AROUND THE GALLERIES

□ THE Union Flag coloured instead with the orange and green of the Irish Tricolour flies high and proud from the top of a Brighton building. It is possible to see Mark Wallinger's flag, part of an exhibition titled *Pledge Allegiance to a Flag*, from the main shopping street. Inside at the London Printworks Trust it is then possible to sit in a chair, hear your heartbeat and see yourself projected on the inside of a faint tent of taut material. Over the top of the sound of the beat, a series of "world events" are projected: demonstrations, horse charges, world leaders, and a child sings *You are My Sunshine*. Any

possible irony intended by Ade Adekola falls flat, however, in such a generalised onslaught. Around the corner, in a perfectly executed set scene, is a complete Victorian parlour. Yinka Shonibare lights his perfection dramatically. Pictures of the Great Exhibition are hung against the wallpaper print of African textile and black footballer, an image which is repeated again and again in the rug, the "window", and even in the plump, button-backed furniture. London Printworks Trust, 5th floor, Unit 14, Brighton House, 9 Brighton Terrace, London SW9 0JF 0171-738 7841, to Jan 20

SACHA CRADDOCK

## No more room for the In

Janet de Botton ran out of space for her superb collection of modern art — and the Tate is the beneficiary

Collectors of contemporary art in this country maintain such a low profile that they appear barely to exist. Unlike America, where collecting is a very public occupation, private collectors over here prefer to remain private. So from 1985, when Charles Saatchi opened his gallery in St John's Wood, until very recently, one could be forgiven for thinking that this was the only contemporary art collection in London.

Now, with her recent gift of 56 works to the Tate's new Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside (due to open in 2000), Janet de Botton has also gone public. Her collection was formed at much the same time as that of Saatchi, who de Botton says was a major influence on her, and is of similar standing. Art world lore has it that Doris and Charles Saatchi and Janet and Michael Green (de Botton's first husband, now chairman of Carlton) would visit galleries and artists' studios in a foursome in the late 1970s and early 1980s. They shared a taste for what was coming out of New York at that time: works by Andy Warhol, Carl Andre, Julian Schnabel, Robert Rymen, Frank Stella and the photographer Cindy Sher-

man are among those de Botton has allowed the Tate carte blanche to select for Bankside.

"I began collecting in 1976 when we moved out of our little flat into a rather large and empty house in Holland Park. I got a big orange and pink abstract painting by John Hoyland to cheer it up. I thought it was a mistake, so I sent it back, but then I changed my mind."

At first she didn't think of it as collecting. "I wanted to have art around me and to live with it. For me there was a clear step between buying paintings to furnish a house and collecting works you can never hang," de Botton says. The room in which we are talking has two Warhol portraits of Chairman Mao above the sofa. Elsewhere there are works by Julian Schnabel and Cy Twombly, while in another room Richard Long has daubed an Avon mud circle on the wall.

Lack of space, however, permits her to live with only a fraction of her collection, of which the Tate now has a quarter — "a very good quarter, but not just the most expensive or the best known". The Tate will display them in a special exhibition next year.



Janet de Botton: "You have to be completely driven to collect"

The remaining 200 works are in storage. Many are simply too big to display in a domestic setting. "You know when you buy something 4m high you can never house it, but you buy it because it is the best work you have seen by that particular artist. It is less painful to put it in storage than not have it at all."

What about the risks involved in buying contemporary art? Mistakes are inevitable, de Botton says, and sometimes you just have to live with them. And that, in turn, trains your eye. "I buy for an instinctive reason and, as I live with a work, it becomes apparent how good or bad it is."

Her collection is the best of what was coming out of Europe and America in the late 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. "I find it easier to go with my own generation in collecting," she says. "There is a natural

empathy. The 1980s was a very fertile period for art, but I only ever bought what I liked. Now I can't believe that I had that conviction."

De Botton comes from a family that, through the Wolfson Foundation created by her grandfather and father, has unobtrusively given a good deal of money to museums and art galleries. She does not consider herself to be a serious collector any longer. "My collecting life had a 20-year span and at the moment it does not absorb me in the way that it did. You have to be completely driven to collect. I now tend to add to my collection rather than discover new artists, although I think the interest in British art at the moment, the emergence of 'let's be proud about what's going on', is great."

ISABEL CARLISLE

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## CHOICE 1

**Fiddler on the hoof: Vanessa-Mae takes off on a British tour**

**VENUE:** Tour opens tonight in Glasgow

## CHOICE 2

**Tim Supple's staging of The Comedy of Errors comes to Newport**

**VENUE:** All this week at the Newport Centre

## THE TIMES ARTS

## OPERA

**Cheers in Munich at the first night of Hans Werner Henze's new opera, Venus und Adonis**

## MUSIC

**Yan Pascal Tortelier conducts a dazzling programme with the National Youth Orchestra**

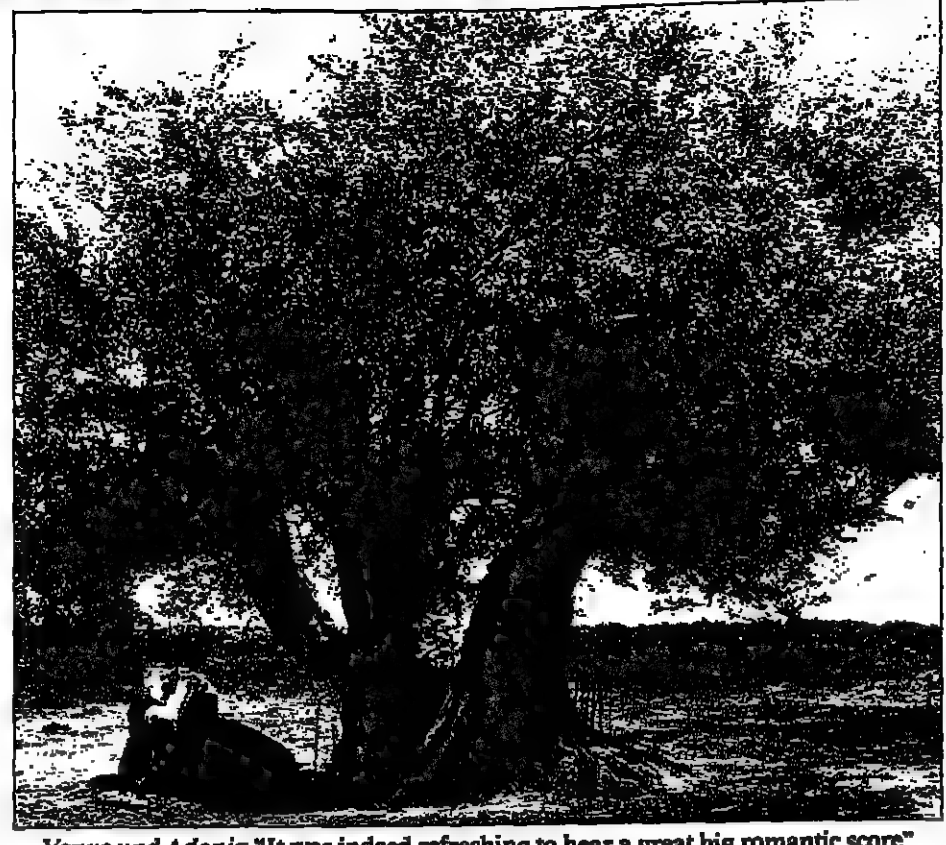
## Short and ever so sweet

**OPERA: Rodney Milnes on Henze's new work for Munich**

Saturday's premiere at the Bavarian State Opera could only be a Great Occasion — a new opera by Germany's leading composer for the stage. Hans Werner Henze was greeted with thunderous applause as he took his seat in a stage box before the performance, and he rose to acknowledge the acclamation; there is a famous caricature of Wagner doing the same thing in the same theatre, and at 70, Henze is as close to being the Grand Old Man of European opera as he has been in a long time. Doubts had been raised in advance about the brevity of his *Venus und Adonis*. It lasts 70 minutes but is so jam-packed with musical event that there is no question of feeling short-changed: there is a limit to the amount of red meat you can take at any one sitting, and the specific gravity of the piece, the perfect balance between music and event, is perhaps something new in a

composer not known for conciseness in the past. The musical layout of Hans-Ulrich Treichel's libretto itself suggests economy and concentration. There are 17 set numbers: seven dances, "boleros", four madrigals for six solo singers either unaccompanied or lightly accompanied depending on the intensity of the action, interspersed with recitatives and arias for three protagonists. The myth is played out at two basic, ever-shifting levels. Three opera singers in formal evening dress carry and read from their scores — Venus (soprano), Adonis (tenor) and Mars (baritone). Three dancers in simple, magically lit by Jean Kalman, I have only one reservation about the staging. Dance in the theatre has always been an excuse for more unbridled behaviour than would otherwise be acceptable, and given the unashamed sensuousness of Henze's music, not to mention the subject-matter and the way it is treated, I was equally unashamedly thirsty for a bit more in the way of flesh than Min Tanaka's dancers, masked and clothed from neck to toe, were allowed to sport in determinedly dull choreography. Nothing but admiration, though, for the way Markus Stenz and the excellent State Opera Orchestra revealed the strengths of the piece, the near-Bachian exuberance of the dance music, the composer's long-remembered fastidiousness of texture (wonderful writing for saxophone), the

faultless dramatic shape of each episode and of the piece as a whole. At a time when so much new music is either minimalist or prissy inward-looking, it was indeed refreshing to hear a great big romantic score whose sheer inventiveness kept you on the edge of your seat. Nadine Secunde (as glamorous as she is communicative), Chris Merritt (a real stage-creature now) and Ekkehard Wlaschka (a more lyrical approach might pay dividends) were the soloists. A Great Occasion indeed.



*Venus und Adonis: "It was indeed refreshing to hear a great big romantic score"*

**CONCERTS: Enthralling playing from the youth orchestra; plus a beguiling solo recital**

## Fine young bloods Coy joys of the lute

IT WAS 50 years ago that Ruth Ralston conceived her grand scheme for furthering the musical education of outstanding young musicians in Great Britain. Friday night's London concert under Yan Pascal Tortelier demonstrated that the National Youth Orchestra has lost none of its power to amaze and enthrall. The NYO regenerates itself very efficiently by introducing new blood each year: of the 1997 crop, more than half are playing for the first time. They began with a breathtaking high-octave performance of Szymanowski's Concerto Overture in E Major. Surging and ecstatic, it was a reading that proclaimed the work's Nietzschean inspiration in vibrant late Romantic harmonies. Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* followed, allowing the players to display virtuoso skills in a number of variations, as

**NYO/Tortelier**  
**Barbican**

With players so young — all are of school age and none is in full-time music education — one has to make some allowances. Solos in the suite from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* were well taken, if slightly vulnerable, and the thunderous repeated chords in *The Death of Tybalt* were underpowered. Yet by the end of the same movement the volume produced was almost deafening, so numerous are the ranks of players and so committed their participation.

With Tortelier urging them on, they caught the mood of full-blooded ardour and the lyrical sweep of the Balcony Scene, the cellos in particular offering rich, sonorous tones.

**BARRY MILLINGTON**

**Paul O'Dette**  
**Wigmore Hall**

RECITALS focused on a single composer are rare, but the chances of a lutenist devoting an entire programme to the music of John Dowland are not as slim as they may seem: no other composer for the instrument ever matched Dowland (1563-1630) in the richness of his output. No dilemma, then, faced the American lutenist and early-music scholar Paul O'Dette in his decision to play an all-Dowland programme at the Wigmore Hall.

In his award-winning Harmonia Mundi recordings of the composer's complete lute music, O'Dette has already revealed the extraordinary range of its tunefulness and invention. Dowland's 100-odd pieces for the instrument also show his obsessive thoroughness.

The dark, melancholy side of Dowland's character was unmasked

by O'Dette's play of the works he played, especially in the desolate *Semper Dowland* of his time, his *Lachrimae*. But there are also bright, witty pieces such as the syncopated *A Cope Joy*. Many of his titles catch the imagination — just what was *Mistress White's Thing*? A highlight was the *Forlorn Hope Fancie*, which embellishes and develops a chromatic theme with wizardly brilliance. O'Dette played with fluid, expressive freedom, and sustained long musical paragraphs. But Dowland is intimate, and occasionally O'Dette needed to project more musical personality into the hall. In all his performances, though, the audience hung intently on deftly infected rhythms and beguiling shifts of colour.

**JOHN ALLISON**

## LONDON

**DREAMINGS — TALKINGHEADS** An impressive collection of Aborigine art goes on display today at the Courtyard Gallery. Owned by Donald Khan, the international touring exhibition features more than 40 works by 24 artists, with a further 20 paintings from the Rebecca Hosack Gallery. Courtyard Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Mon-Sat, 10am-7pm. Sun, noon-7pm. Closed Jan 14-15. Unit 15, 16.

**THE SHIRT** Andy Lander's production uses slide and video technology for Clare Bayley's exploration of the lives of three women in 1947, 1968 and 1987. Young Vic Studio, The Old SE1 (0171-638 8891) Today, 7.30pm. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Sun, noon-7pm. Closed Jan 14-15. Unit 15, 16.

**SOUTH BANK** English National Ballet presents Ronald Hynd's sun-drenched production of *Coppelia* at the Festival Hall, set to Dabber's enchanting score. Performances will be given nightly until Saturday, 7.30pm. Sun, 2.30pm. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Sun, 2.30pm. Unit 15, 16.

**ART** Adam Finney, Tom Courtenay and Ken Scott in an exceptionally moving drama about friendship, unrequited love and the search for meaning. *Whitbread's*, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-734 1730) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sun, Sat and Sun, 3pm.

**BEEF, NO CHICKEN** Derek Watkin's 1970s farce, set in a restaurant where a modernist chef and a traditionalist chef are at odds. *Whitbread's*, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-734 1730) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sun, Sat and Sun, 3pm.

**STAGE SPY**, Royal Court Theatre. *Whitbread's*, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-734 1730) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sun, Sat and Sun, 3pm.

**THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES** (PG) Drama. Starring director and stars in his absurd, glossy comedy-romance about a man who falls for a woman who is a double agent. *Whitbread's*, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-734 1730) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sun, Sat and Sun, 3pm.

**ROBINSON IN SPACE** (PG) More sprightly, visually dazzling musicals on the English life, culture and politics from the director of *London Fields*. *Whitbread's*, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-734 1730) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sun, Sat and Sun, 3pm.

**SOME MOTHERS SON** (15) Fictional story inspired by the Made Prisoner's story, with Helen Mirren. *Whitbread's*, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-734 1730) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sun, Sat and Sun, 3pm.

**THE SLEEPING BEAUTY** (PG) Musical. *Whitbread's*, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-734 1730) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sun, Sat and Sun, 3pm.

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## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

**Baroque music** entitled "The New Opus" featuring works by Corelli and a general survey of Italian composers. *South Bank*, SE1 (0171-960 4243) 6.

**ELSEWHERE** The popular violinist Vanessa-Mae begins a British tour, featuring music from her new album, *The Classical Album*. *Royal Concert Hall*, Buchanan Street (011-237 5511) Today, 7.30pm. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Sun, 2.30pm. Unit 15, 16.

**GUILDFOUR** City Ballet of London launches its spring tour with highlights from its classical repertoire. The gala programme includes *Ad Libitum* from Swan Lake, Frederick Ashton's *Les Patineurs* and *Les Patineurs* from *Les Patineurs*. *Royal College of Art*, The Art of Illustration (0171-590 4444) 4.

**THEATRE GUIDE** Jeremy Kingston's assessment of the theatre scene in London. *Whitbread's*, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-734 1730) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sun, Sat and Sun, 3pm.

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## LONDON GALLERIES

**British Library** *Whitbread's*, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-734 1730) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sun, Sat and Sun, 3pm.

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## NEWPORT

**The Royal Shakespeare Company's touring production of The Comedy of Errors arrives here today in a revival directed by Tim Supple.** *Newport Centre*, Kingway (01633 60000) Lengthy Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm. Sun, 2.30pm. Unit 15, 16.

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■ MIME

Larking for a living: the world's top clowns offer Londoners a feast of visual ho-ho



■ THEATRE

A welcome return for Caryl Churchill's fine historical play, *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire*

THE TIMES  
ARTS



■ DANCE

Beauty in distress: Darcy Bussell brings a touch of heroics to *Covent Garden*



■ CD CHOICE

Breathtaking on ivory: Building a Library surveys the top recordings of Ravel's *Miroirs*

# Make 'em laugh, make 'em think

## LONDON MIME FESTIVAL

Kenneth Rea on the enduring power and mystique of modern clowns

It takes a brave imagination to tell the story of *Romeo and Juliet*, romantically, with an all-male cast of nine clowns. But Théâtre le Ranelagh's version, *Sur la route de Stienne* (On the Road to Stienne), is not a crass parody: indeed it underlines the growing power that clowns have in today's theatre. The show captivated the French and is now part of the London International Mime Festival, which opened on Saturday.

Across London more clowns are serving up their own brand of Surrealism to large and awestruck audiences. For an inkling of the clown of the future, take a look at the designer-dressed creatures in Cirque du Soleil's *Saltimbanco* at the Albert Hall. Or at Sadler's Wells' Peacock Theatre, the tragic spectacle of the great Slava Polunin in *Snowshow*.

These are not the gaudily dressed clowns of circus rings, but an altogether more enigmatic animal whose pedigree goes back to the Elizabethan jester. Not solely reliant on crude slapstick, they deal in subtlety and sophistication.

Clowns influenced artists such as Modigliani and Picasso, inspired the poets Mallarmé and Baudelaire, and fascinated playwrights from Wedekind to Beckett. They have proliferated in the theatre, while on television, through a new generation of comedians such as Rowan Atkinson and Lee Evans, they have become commentators on our times.

A great clown commands our respect while making us laugh. The clown is the child who sees the world with unadorned transparency: he has the license for madness and unconventional behaviour, but also the impunity to speak the truth. Like the boy who remarks that the Emperor has no clothes, we need the clown to expose the corruption of big business and the sleaze of politics. Through our laughter, the pretensions are deflated. But we also need the clown to remind us to dream.

"When I go on stage I want the audience to return to the dreams of their childhood," says Polunin. "This is the main thing. It's a kind of medicine because if we are true to our dreams we are happy. At the end of my show, when I see old people start to push kids aside to play with giant balloons, then something is happening."



Shakespeare without words: one of the nine clowns in the all-male cast gets ready for his role in Théâtre le Ranelagh's spell-binding version of *Romeo and Juliet*

Madonna Bouglione, director of Théâtre le Ranelagh, builds dreams for us by reviving the French pantomime style of her illustrious circus family, though on a more modest scale. "My grandfathers had 150 dancers, with elephants, tigers, crocodiles, snakes and horses," she recalls. "He staged *The Bengal Lancers* as a pantomime. In those days you could get rich with a show. But now I just hope I won't go to jail."

The genre, which was famously depicted in the film *Les Enfants du Paradis*, evolved as a result of 19th-century licensing laws which permitted only the Comédie Française to stage spoken plays in Paris. Silent pantomime was a popular way of circumventing the monopoly, and it stayed.

Applying the family recipe to *Romeo and Juliet*, Bouglione condensed the story to 15 lines, com-

piled a soundtrack of lush music that unashamedly juxtaposed Wagner and Nino Rota, then collaborated with the Russian clown Valery Keft — a student of Polunin — to marry circus skills, mime and Shakespeare.

Thus Romeo reaches Juliet's balcony by walking on water — or rather on a series of blocks placed under a rippling sheet of blue silk. And although Juliet is really a bespectacled young man in a frock, when they dance together through the swirling dry ice, the effect is more romantic than anything you might watch at the RSC. And when the Montagues clash with the Capulets, there is a thrilling cascade of juggled knives and bodies tumbling through the air.

At first glance there might seem to be a tension between the natural anarchy of a clown and the discipline needed to tell a story

concisely, but Bouglione and Keft have moulded a rhythm and temperament quite different from that of the circus.

"In the circus you must be immediately effective," explains Bouglione. "You have only five or six minutes so you're not looking to say anything very profound. The most important thing is to be funny very quickly."

But in the theatre, she says, the audience is closer. "You can take the time to tell stories. You can use silence and be very romantic and emotional. Technique is so important for a clown, though. You must rehearse and rehearse until it's totally inside you."

As Polunin points out, circus clowns are a relatively recent phenomenon anyway: they didn't cross over from the stage to the big

top until the 19th century when circuses, especially the American ones, became bigger and glitzier.

"By the 1950s the virtuosity of the clown reached its peak, but he lost his soul," says Polunin. "Against that background the theatre tradition of the clown was reborn. The theatre clown wanted to capture simplicity, warmth and naivety. He wanted to return to the poetry that was lost in the circus. Another reason is that the 20th century is essentially the century of intellectual man. Just to see somebody kicking somebody else was not enough to make him happy. So the new type of clown was trying to introduce to his art new ideas on a more intellectual level."

"The circus clown is a grotesque, a caricature, but the modern clown is getting closer and closer to a psychological character. My clown figure is not just a caricature. He is

a tragicomic hero — a modern Don Quixote."

The art of the clown is one of the most gruelling of all the performing arts, for it demands both the courage to expose your vulnerability and the confidence to express your personal vision of the world. Like something out of an actor's nightmare, you are sent naked onto the stage without a script, armed only with your imagination.

This is the reason Bouglione insists that her clowns must know why they are there. "A clown who doesn't have something to say doesn't need to go on the stage," she says. "He may give immediate pleasure but he leaves no souvenir in the audience's mind. If he doesn't have this he becomes merely a circus clown."

London International Mime Festival, until Jan 26 (details 0171-637 5661). *Snowshow*, until Jan 20 (0171-312 1946).

## Two for the price of one

IF WE didn't know it before, we know it now. Darcy Bussell is not only a star, she is also a real trouper. Picture the scene on Saturday night at Covent Garden. Only minutes to go before the curtain rises on *The Sleeping Beauty* and Bussell is in her dressing room fighting back the flu. But she does not want to disappoint her audience, so she summons up the strength to don tutu and greasepaint and out she trots for Act 1. The only happens to be the most gruelling test of a ballerina's skills in all of classical ballet, one that defeats many a healthy dancer, let alone a sick one. And what did the ailing Bussell do? She produced a most ravishing display of bountiful classicism, exciting in its ambition and breathtaking in its realisation. Her self-possession as a performer

### DANCE

*Sleeping Beauty*  
Covent Garden

is always impressive: on Saturday night it was little short of miraculous. She was a radiant, gleaming Aurora, a ballerina who embraced Petipa's demanding choreography with rapture and confidence.

The Rose Adagio balances were taken at the pace of molasses on a cold day, drawn out to such an extent that Viktor Fedotov almost ran out of music to conduct. Whether she was trying to conserve her energy, or whether she just wanted to cherish each and every balance, the effect was the same — sheer magic as she made the mark.

Her solo was no less wonderful: nimble footwork, voluptuous extensions and dazzling backbends. Those who had paid to see Bussell could have no cause to complain after that, even though the exertions of Act I meant she was unable to complete the ballet. Belinda Hatley, who was waiting in the wings, was called in to replace Bussell at the beginning of Act II and became the lucky girl to be awoken by Stuart Cassidy's handsome Prince.

Although we lost the continuity of characterisation with the change of ballerina, we were treated to some lovely dancing. Hatley has a very expressive style, one that quietly makes its point in delicate, well-thought-out phrases. She was well partnered by Cassidy, whose solos were also attractively delivered. In the pit, Fedotov was going great guns, producing a rousing account of Tchaikovsky's score and helping the dancers along wherever necessary by adjusting tempos.

DEBRA CRAINE

## A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

### RAVEL'S MIROIRS

Reviewed by Bryce Morrison  
RAVEL'S *Miroirs* form a scintillating paradox, though one in which widely conflicting ideas are resolved by the composer's deeply personal symbolism and by his tireless search for "technical perfection". Understandably, such an interplay of objective and subjective notions provoked a critical storm at the first performance, given in Paris in 1905 by the redoubtable Ricardo Vines.

Today's available recordings come in all shapes and sizes, though there is much evidence that the possession of a French passport is no guarantee of authenticity. Meticulous to the point of neurosis, Ravel would surely have been angered by pianists who flout even his most rudimentary instructions: who substitute one dynamic for another (generally, forte for piano), whose rhythmic freedom verges on licence, and who liberally spray the score with inaccuracies.

There are, however, some notable exceptions. Vlado Perlemuter's Nimbus disc is of special interest, though his innate keyboard elegance is severely strained by the virtuoso demands of *Alborada del Gracioso*. Marcelle Meyer (EMI), another pianist central to the French tradition, is more vivacious though scarcely more precise, while Pascal Rogé, on Decca, offers a most stylish reticence — one which should not be mistaken for diffidence.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk  
Next Saturday (Radio 3, 9am): Shostakovich's *Symphony No 5*



Louis Lortie on Chandos is, arguably, more bold and characterful, while Paul Crossley, presented in CRD's brightly lit sound, is both disciplined and poetic. Gordon Fergus-Thompson (ASV) is a pianist with a strong sense of Ravel's luxury, relishing every golden opportunity for nuance and richness, and Frederick Chiu, whose enterprising Harmonia Mundi recital includes works by Abel Decaux and Schoenberg, is as light-fingered and fanciful as you could wish.

Sviatoslav Richter's "live" 1965 Prague performance (on Praga) goes in a category of its own, his transcendental pianism sometimes hallucinatory, sometimes engulfing the score in an element's rage of sound.

Best of all is Jean-Yves Thibaudet (Decca 433 515-2, 2CDs, £30.49), whose performance is piquant and engaging in the best French style. Fearless in bravura (notably in *Alborada*'s double note glissandi and valleys of repeated notes), he is no less attuned to Ravel's subtle and quixotic nature.

Somewhat surprisingly presented and recorded, this is a performance to treasure.

## THEATRE: Social revolutionaries at the NT; spineless *Jekyll* in Edinburgh

WHAT the tide, *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire*, means is obscure, but it sounds terrific, and that about expresses my feelings for Caryl Churchill's ground-breaking play, now revived at the Cottesloe for the current NT Education tour. The play shows us ground-breakers too: Diggers, Ranters, Levelers, social visionaries who failed to turn the uprising against Charles I into a democratic movement and were defeated by the forces of Property — Cromwell, Ireton, squires and parsons.

The story of their doomed attempts to persuade opponents during the Putney Debates and their equally fruitless farming of common land at Cobham and Weybridge, was an area of British history left unexamined in my school days. What tradesmen and landless villagers might have believed was thought not worth discovering. So Churchill shows us, drawing on the copious records of the period but

## Diggers dug



Tim Welton (and Tim Crouch behind) break new ground

making her own imaginative contributions, often drawing on suggestions made by actors at rehearsal.

One such casual remark became the exchange between two women who break into a great house and emerge with a

piece of mirror. The older woman describes the much greater looking-glasses they left behind: "They must know what they look like all the time." In a line like this an entire period bounds into life.

So why does the play as a

whole leave me unsatisfied? The cast of six is determined and convincing in roles that represent most classes between Cromwell and the paupers: Mark Wing-Davey's austere direction resourcefully uses Madeline Herbert's set of plain tables and metal screens, and his closed-circuit television camera throws faint images of the actors upon the rear wall. This is presumably to make us feel that the spirit of the Diggers lives on today. Republicanism is a potent issue for the first time since the defeat of Charles I, and millenarian fantasies preoccupy simpler minds. Surely the past in Churchill's play is our present and future?

But too much has changed. The religious issues shown here have now been sidelined. The dismal fate of the revolutionaries can be touching but their personalities seem remote. Spare and precise, gritty and wrathful, the production is expert but the content dry.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## A timid Hyding to nothing much

WHEN David Edgar's take on Stevenson's Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde was revived in Birmingham last year, it transcended not only its original sources, but its own first outing some five years previously. Then, good and evil had seemingly been separated at birth, dividing the role between two actors, while the revised version put the divided self back squarely in the same body, soul, and psyche. By all accounts it was a triumph, which makes Kenny Ireland's new production at the Royal Lyceum in Edinburgh doubly disappointing.

This is not to say there is nothing on offer. Edgar's post-Freud, post-R.D. Laing approach broadens things out, giving Jekyll — here an upright Calvinist man of science and wannabe libertine — a foreboding family tree overshadowing his every action. Following in the footsteps but living in the shadow of his dead

father, he also has a one-eyed sister to rattle a closet-load of skeletons. Moreover, the poor fellow has a nubile runaway maid to contend with, his alter ego having put her "in the family way". At his hellfire bachelor club, meanwhile, the idea is most definitely the thing — abstract rhetoric devoid of anything remotely like feeling or naked emotion. Edgar himself is a victim of this macho disease, theorising himself into a corner with a dialectic perfection delivered so coldly and with all its Victorian trappings that it comes across as little more than slack melodrama devoid of imagination.

Because, despite Edgar's invented characters — Jekyll's sister being a particularly hammy conceit — it is just too literary for its own good. While there are clearly chunks lifted from the book, even the invented lines sound as though they were too. Full marks to Edgar for slipping his

words so seamlessly into Stevenson's text, but it frankly makes for a pretty boring night once the novelty has worn off.

The play is hidebound, too, by a production so clodhoppingly old-fashioned that it requires a furniture removal service between every awkwardly constructed scene. Even a hint of impressionistic shadow play to vary pace and pitch would have saved things.

The play could have addressed the superstitious reaction to the concept of evil in the wake of violent tragedy, but is only skirted around here, and it is that sense of danger that is lacking. This is a production marred by its own timidity, reluctant to tackle either this or the age-old desire to transcend to otherness. At least Jekyll had the nerve to go one step beyond.

NEIL COOPER

# THE TIMES AFTER THE HOLIDAYS, PLAN YOUR DEPARTURE.

See the 36-page Appointments section this Thursday in The Times.

http://www.the-times.co.uk CHANGING TIMES



## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS



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LAW

Should judges be told what sentences to pass? Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, reports



Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, left, and Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Baker, former Home Secretaries: questioning the sentencing changes

A voice for the public

The Home Secretary's proposals in the Crime (Sentences) Bill to curtail severely the sentencing powers of the judges in cases of serious offences have predictably come under attack from a united front of the higher judiciary. Yesterday the proposals had their third reading in the Commons. But the attack is likely to be renewed in the Lords later this month by Lord Bingham of Cornhill — if only because the proposals represent an intrusion into the traditional role of the criminal courts in sentencing offenders. More significantly, they have been seriously questioned by two former Home Secretaries, Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Baker, as being likely to fill the overcrowded prisons, clog up the courts and cause individual injustice. If the statutory imposition of minimum and mandatory life sentences for certain crimes is criminologically unsound in foundation and will be unworkable in practice, the new Bill does reflect a public perception (not warranted by factual evidence of courts' sentencing of persistent and dangerous offenders. So is there any way in which genuine public anxiety about inadequate sentencing can be allayed, while retaining the need for all sentencing to be the exclusive province of the judiciary? Some recognition of the occasional failures of trial judges to pass adequate or appropriate sentences was made in the

Criminal Justice Act 1968. 'Unduly lenient sentences, passed by the Crown Court for indictable-only offences, can be challenged by the Attorney-General deciding to refer cases to the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division), which in turn may increase the sentence. The reform has worked well enough. But the time seems ripe for enlarging the right of appeal beyond just those cases of undue leniency. But it is sensible and unobjectionable for the Director of Public Prosecutions — to challenge selectively any inadequate or inappropriate (as distinct from unduly lenient) sentence, would it not be wise to go further? On the debate of the measure introduced in 1988, Lord Lane, then Lord Chief Justice, said in the House that "the more the prosecution can play a part in the sentencing process, the less likely it is that the need will arise for the Crown to appeal

against an over-lenient sentence". (I omit a qualifying phrase, to which I will allude later.) Has not the time come for perfecting that idea by formally making the Crown a party to the court procedure, post-conviction? Traditionally, prosecuting counsel ceases to be a party once the verdict of guilt is recorded. The Bar Code of Conduct states that "prosecuting counsel should not attempt to influence the court with regard to sentence". Even if invited by the trial judge to assist, the practice is to decline, beyond telling the court what powers it has in the case and any relevant Court of Appeal guidelines. If the mitigation by defence counsel contains unjust criticism of the victim, prosecuting counsel should tell the court it is incorrect. But generally not otherwise. The rationale of such abstinence from the sentencing process is that the

prosecution must not in any way seek to be involved, because that, it is claimed, would breach the independence of the judiciary: there should be no semblance of penalty-fixing, or subservience on the part of the judges to the Executive on the policy or practice in sentencing. Lord Lane's qualification for advocating prosecution involvement in the sentencing process was, "without, it hardly needs saying, demanding X years as the minimum". Is it unthinkable, now that we have, since 1985, a national prosecution service, under the direction of the DPP, that prosecuting counsel should formally indicate what the Crown thinks is the appropriate penalty, so the judge can assess the right sentence and avoid, so far as possible, either unmerited appeals by the offender or references by the Attorney-General of cases of undue leniency? The innate sense of fair play that marks the present system in this country of prosecution withdrawal from the sentencing process is in stark contrast to most legal systems in the rest of Europe. But the com-

There is an innate sense of fair play about our system

mental practice of prosecutors making submissions on sentence is not entirely alien to the British Isles. The explanation for the departure in the Channel Islands from the English rule is that the power of the Attorney-General (Procureur in Guernsey) is traditionally far more extensive than that of the DPP. The Attorney-General is the *partie publique*, whose function is to safeguard the public interest in the widest sense. If the role of prosecuting counsel were to be significantly changed in a way which would bring England into line with other civilised legal systems, it would inject a practice infinitely preferable to minimum and mandatory sentences. It would preserve judicial independence: at the same time it would give the public an official voice in our Crown Courts.

● Sir Louis Blom-Cooper was a judge in the Courts of Appeal in Jersey and Guernsey, 1988 to 1996.

- WOMEN ACHIEVERS 43
- CHILD WITNESSES 43

When counsel should come clean

Counsel have a duty to advance the interests of their clients. But sometimes this must give way to an overriding duty not to mislead the court. The judgments of the Court of Appeal in *Vernon v Bosley* (Times Law Report, December 19, 1996) illustrate the fundamental importance of this principle, and the difficulty in its application. The defendant was employed by the plaintiff and his wife as a nanny for their two daughters. In August 1982, the nanny negligently drove a car containing the children into a river in South Wales. The plaintiff sued the defendant (in reality, her insurance company) for damages for the psychiatric injuries he sustained by witnessing unsuccessful rescue attempts. In January 1995, Mr Justice Sedley awarded the plaintiff a substantial sum of damages based on the evidence he had heard from a consultant psychiatrist and a clinical psychologist about the plaintiff's mental state and the prognosis for the future. Unknown to Mr Justice Sedley, those experts had also given evidence for the plaintiff in separate family law proceedings in the county court between the plaintiff and his wife at the end of 1994. In that forum, the same experts had stated, in support of their client, that the plaintiff's psychiatric health had greatly improved and that he had substantially recovered from the traumatic incident.

deception of a court. Everyone in court had wrongly referred to the defendant as "Chief Inspector". *Vernon v Bosley* is a very welcome restatement of the obligations of counsel. Lord Justice Stuart-Smith explained that "where the case has been conducted on the basis of certain material facts which are an essential part of the party's case", that party's lawyers have a duty to correct the court's understanding when, before judgment, the facts are discovered by them to be significantly different. Lord Justice Thorpe pointed out that the balance between the advocate's duties to a client and to the court "must reflect evolutionary change within the civil justice system". Reforms in civil justice require "strengthening the duty to the court". He rightly referred to the value of an "instinctive and intuitive judgment" in this context. "The course that feels wrong," he said, "is unlikely to be the safe course to follow." Difficult cases can and do arise as to the extent of a lawyer's duty to correct a misleading impression. But, as the majority of the Court of Appeal concluded, *Vernon v Bosley* was well over the line. Counsel had made "a serious error of judgment" in failing to advise their client of the need for disclosure. An ethical legal system cannot permit lawyers to present a positive case and then conceal inconsistent statements by their own expert witnesses. Nor is the principle affected by the fact that counsel became aware of the county court statements after Mr Justice Sedley had heard evidence, but before he gave judgment. The judges in the majority disagreed about the steps which counsel should take. Lord Justice Stuart-Smith considered that counsel should advise the client to make disclosure; if the client refused, counsel should withdraw from the case. Lord Justice Thorpe more persuasively contended that if the client declined to reveal the new facts, counsel should make disclosure to the opposing counsel. Otherwise, an injustice may well occur.



DAVID PANNICK QC

In the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Thorpe held that the plaintiff had a duty to disclose the further evidence to the defendant. His counsel had seriously misled both Mr Justice Sedley and the Court of Appeal (which, at an earlier hearing, had decided an appeal about the amount of compensation without being told about the further evidence). The Court of Appeal reduced the plaintiff's compensation. Lord Justice Evans dissented. The Code of Conduct for the Bar states that a practising barrister "must assist the court in the administration of justice and must not deceive or knowingly or recklessly mislead the court". The difficulty arises because the courts have held that though barristers must not actively mislead the court, they may stand passively by and watch the court being misled by reason of its ignorance of the true facts. An example of actively misleading the court can be found in a 1961 Court of Appeal judgment. The court allowed an appeal after a civil trial for assault because the defendant's barrister had not told the court, or the plaintiff, that his client, a police officer, had been demoted from Chief Inspector for

though Lord Justice Evans dissented, he was right to suggest that *Vernon v Bosley* "deserved a place in the history books or in some legal museum" as an example of excessive costs and delays. The case demonstrates two other defects that can afflict civil justice in England and Wales: partisan expert witnesses, and the failure of some lawyers to recognise that they have duties other than promoting the interests of their clients.

Changing culture

FRESH FROM his ground-breaking meeting with the Association of Chief Probation Officers, Lord Bingham of Cornhill is to achieve another first. In June he will become the first Lord Chief Justice to give the Prison Reform Trust's annual lecture. His decision indicates that Lord Bingham intends to continue the trend, initiated by his predecessor, of engaging in public debate on criminal justice matters — watch for the Lords debate on the Crime (Sentences) Bill on January 27. Stephen Shaw, the chairman of the trust, says: "His decision to accept the invitation shows the cultural change that has taken place. Until Lord Taylor became Lord Chief Justice, it would have been unimaginable for a man in that position to give our annual lecture."

**Lobbying Howard** MICHAEL HOWARD has surprised and delighted the Probation Service by dining privately with individual

OUTS

chief probation officers and members of their committees. By all accounts, the meals, described by one guest as "businesslike rather than social occasions", have worked a treat. The service was delighted to have a chance to lobby Mr Howard over the Government's law and order measures. But one cynic re-

marked: "The chief probation officers clearly enjoy the dinners, but is there any evidence that he takes on board what they tell him?" The evidence, so far, is no.

**Dangerous talk** EVEN in the big City law firms, ambition has its limits.



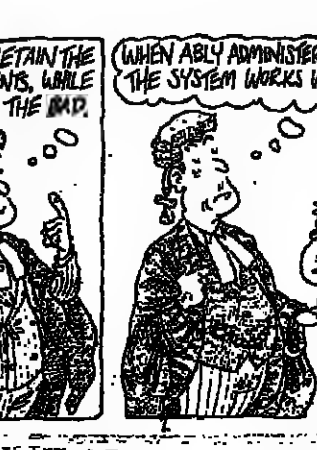
**Name fame** WHAT A PITY the newly merged Cameron McKenna has dropped the "Markby" in Cameron Markby Hewitt. Mr Markby was immortalised by an insult in The Importance Of Being Earnest after quarrelling with Oscar Wilde, left. Lady Bracknell, told that Gwendolen's solicitors are "Messrs Markby, Markby & Markby", sniffsly comments: "A firm of the very highest in their profession. Indeed, I am told that one of the Mr Markbys is occasionally seen at dinner."

But only, it seems, when life is at stake. An assistant solicitor was asked to help out in a firm's Moscow office on a transaction. When his work was finished, the head of the Moscow office mentioned to the head of the assistant's department that it had been useful that the lawyer spoke fluent Russian. This fact was not on the assistant's CV. Asked why, the assistant confessed: "There are several of us here who haven't admitted to speaking Russian. We don't want to risk being posted there; it's far too dangerous."

**Pro bono** TONY WILLIS, a partner in Clifford Chance, is to chair the first Solicitors Pro Bono Group, which has been set up to encourage solicitors and their firms in ventures where they offer legal advice free of charge. The idea comes from Andrew Phillips, founder of the Citizenship Foundation. Mr Willis said: "Our intention is to turn this initiative into an enduring framework for a coherent programme of pro bono work by solicitors." Mr Willis is on 0171-600 1000.

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Commercial Lawyer, March 1996.

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The Legal 500, The Clients' Guide to UK Law Firms, 1996.

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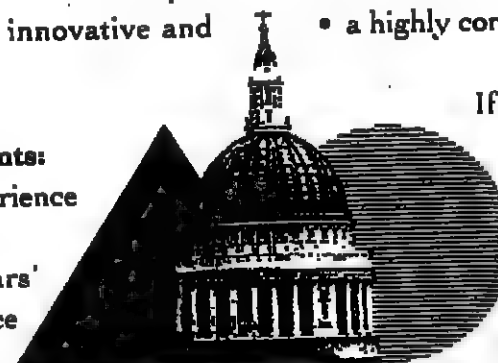
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Robin Fitzsimons reports on the options open to the Hong Kong electorate if it is not to be represented by Yes Men of the People's Republic

## Will the voice of the voters be heard?

This afternoon Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, will be questioned by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee. It will be a grave occasion. Four hundred of China's chosen have just appointed 60 of the People's Republic's supporters to become Hong Kong's "provisional legislature", the body set to replace the elected Legislative Council (LegCo). China's indifference to the promises in the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration is clear.

That declaration guarantees Hong Kong a "high degree of autonomy" and spells out the many "freedoms" of speech, of the press... which its citizens will enjoy. It underpins these promises with one crucial imperative — that the "legislature shall be constituted by elections".

Many and eminent are the authorities who say that the appointment of a "provisional legislature" violates the declaration. Baroness Thatcher, the US Senate, the UN Human Rights Committee and the International Commission of Jurists have all said as much. What can be done about the violation?

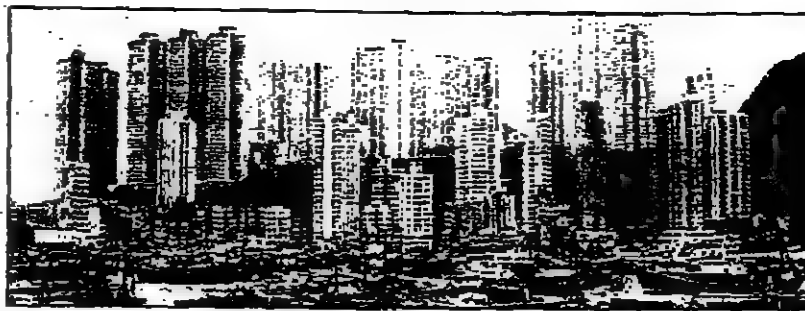
If you believe Sir Percy Cradock, who negotiated the declaration, the answer is

"nothing but spit against the wind". John Major promised to "mobilise the international community and pursue every legal and other avenue available to us". Mr Patten told LegCo: "Take up the matter, not least in the United Nations."

Now Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, has asked China to have the dispute over the legislature heard by the World Court, the International Court of Justice. Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, was dismissive, and called Britain a coward for suggesting it. It would be useless, he said, for Britain to play any more international cards.

Never mind that China has implicitly accepted the court's competence in territorial, administrative and human rights disputes, or that there has been a Chinese judge on the World Court since 1985.

The Joint Declaration is a treaty lodged with the UN — whose very Charter tells of the purpose to promote respect for international obligations and treaties. But China does not accept the



Hong Kong has been "guaranteed" a high degree of autonomy

court's compulsory contentious jurisdiction (nor does America). Curiously, the declaration specifies no mechanism of dispute resolution. A protocol could still, however, be added.

What if China continues to stonewall? The court might then act in its advisory jurisdiction. UN organs and agencies — such as the General Assembly (for its interim committee) — can refer legal

questions for the court's opinion. Legal attempts by interested parties to stop such a hearing have almost always failed. China might not have a Security Council veto in a dispute referral.

Such advisory opinions are not binding in the way that contentious decisions are, but they have equivalent authority and do define international law. Judge Nagendra Singh, a former World Court

President, said in 1988 that a "state which chooses to contravene what has been defined as a rule of law in an advisory opinion will find it difficult to claim that it is not in breach of international law" — a powerful incentive for China to comply.

Even Sir Percy has said that since China has opted for the "legal rather than military solution" for Hong Kong, it would stick to the legal course.

Also, Mr Qian's fury about internationalisation suggests a real Chinese vulnerability. Lord Skidelsky, the eminent economic historian, argues that China cannot ignore world concerns about Hong Kong's legislature while covering a seat at every top table in trade and security.

The international lawyers on the UN Human Rights Committee, meeting recently in Geneva, demanded that China be held to account. China's status as a permanent member of the Security Council, they said, made its plans to violate UN and Treaty obligations by

appointing the legislature a matter of concern. And not only because the declaration prescribes "elections". China has also promised that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights will continue to apply in Hong Kong, which the Human Rights Committee says requires any election to be "genuine" and based on universal suffrage.

Unwanted laws passed by the provisional legislature could be immune from later rescission; the constitutional Basic Law says LegCo Bills cannot be introduced without approval by the Chief Executive (a man also chosen by China).

But if Britain can persuade a UN body to uphold the principles of its Charter and seek an advisory opinion, there could be hope for the present legislature — and for the autonomies and freedoms now guaranteed by the Bill of Rights Ordinance and other laws.

Lobbying the UN can pay off. The World Court recently looked at two cases on the legality of nuclear weapons after lawyers and doctors lobbied the General Assembly and the World Health Organisation to seek an advisory opinion. But it needs Britain to spearhead the action. Or be party to Hong Kong's betrayal.

## Divorce with a few bits missing

Mediation will soon be on offer

A couple's experience of divorce may soon be influenced by the quality of the mediation service in the area where they live. Mediation will now play a central role in the divorce process. Couples will decide whether to choose one mediator per pair, rather than a lawyer each, to guide them to their separate destinies.

This new approach is part of last year's Family Law Act, which did not have an easy birth. The Law Society withdrew its support for the Bill, and MPs' consciences led them to force the Government to make concessions. Yet the relevant provisions will not be activated for at least two years.

Legislators can now relax duty done. But other bodies have to ensure that the proposals will work in practice. Pilot projects in local areas will help to achieve this. One such body is the Legal Aid Board, and one such project deals with family mediation.

The Bill received the Royal Assent in July and by October the board had produced its draft consultation paper on proposals for a Family Mediation Pilot Project. The board, in a short time, appears to have made the best of a brouhaha which Parliament took rather longer to concoct.

The project will start in the next few weeks and continue beyond the millennium. Its primary objectives are to determine how best to subcontract quality-assured and publicly funded mediation, while assessing its relative costs/benefits — both to the taxpayer and to the couples involved — as against present legal aid arrangements.

Market forces are expected to add to the 100 or so mediation services now operating in England and Wales, and to extend their remit beyond child issues to finance and property matters.

All involved must meet the challenge of pioneering a radically different approach to divorce while the supporting parts of the 1996 Act are not in force. There will not, for example, be an opportunity to attend the vital divorce information session at which potential divorcers will — one day — have mediation explained to them.

Other reforms that may remain unimplemented during the pilot period include those relating to financial relief orders, which do not, at present, have to be resolved in advance of the divorce order. Similarly, the 18-month minimum period pencilled in for parental divorce will not apply.

A final difficulty will be the pensions issue, not only will the relevant part of the Act not be in force but also its inadequacies are so manifest that further statutory change is to be enacted. These matters will bring into sharp relief the need for legal training of the new mediators. As for the geographical areas to be used for the pilot project, the Legal Aid Board is still open to "expressions of interest". Many will see it as golden opportunity to get in on the ground floor.

CHRIS BARTON AND MARY HIBBS

The authors teach family law at Staffordshire University.

Is there equality in the profession? Frances Gibb previews the 1997 Woman Lawyer Conference sponsored by The Times

## Fighting your way to the top: still a struggle

Women lawyers are making it. Half of the profession's new entrants are women; and women now make up 31 per cent of all practising solicitors — 21,000, according to new Law Society statistics. Their arrival has been swift: since 1986, the solicitors' profession has grown by 42 per cent and the number of practising women solicitors rose by 188 per cent. At the Bar, they make up almost half of each year's new entrants.

More women are taking leading roles in the profession. Heather Hallett, QC, this year's Bar Vice-Chairman, is likely to be the first woman to lead the Bar in 1998.

So should women lawyers be celebrating? The answer is mixed. Margaret McCabe, barrister and organiser of this year's Woman Lawyer Conference, agrees that women are triumphing. But their success is despite the difficulties, not because these do not exist.

Problems, she says, persist. Chief of these are pay levels for men and women. It is a myth, she contends, that women lawyers receive the same as men.

Ms McCabe says: "While discrimination may manifest itself in a number of ways — sexual harassment and stereotyping women into certain types of work — the key is securing equal remuneration."

Last autumn, hard evidence emerged from the Law Society of the discriminatory pay levels among solicitors. The survey of 580 firms (with up to 80 partners) in England and Wales found that median earnings of women assistant or associate solicitors were £21,000 a year, compared with £24,000 for men. For salaried partners, women's median earnings were £32,000 and men £37,000; and at equity partner level, women were earning £36,000 and men £51,000. Tony Girling, the society President, called the findings "sad and shameful".

The issue is at the heart of this year's Woman Lawyer Conference. Shattering The Myths, on April 12, which is organised by the Bar and Law Society, Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, will look at the role of women lawyers in civil justice reform and the impact of changes on women's careers; and the profession's leaders, Mr Girling and Robert Owen, QC, the Bar Chairman, will outline their plans to improve equal opportunities. Roberta Cooper Ramo, the American Bar Association's immediate past President, will give the keynote speech.

Other highlights include two open-forum question-and-answer sessions. Among the panellists are Ms Cooper Ramo, Helena Kennedy, QC, Laura Cox, QC, Kamlesh Bahl, Equal Opportunities Commission chairwoman, and Judith Mayhew, Wilde Sapte's director of training.

In a departure from the conference's two previous highly successful predecessors, there will be five simultaneous workshops. Ms McCabe says: "The emphasis is on practical help, such as looking at the key stages of a woman's career. Women may take three to six months off at a critical period, and if those absences are not looked at in a constructive way, they can easily fall behind in career terms and never get back."

Innovative working patterns, recruitment policies, maternity and paternity leave are among the topics. Cherie Booth, QC, will chair a session on "mentoring", the idea of women being helped by a more senior member of the profession, and on career breaks, refresher training and selection processes. Peter Goldsmith, QC, a past Bar Council Chairman, will chair a session on strategies when things go wrong. Jane Willets, partner with Edge & Ellison, on how women — without the golf club or other male haunts — can promote themselves and their businesses; and Alex Le Clezio, director of training at Watson, Parley & Williams, will chair a session on juggling careers and child-rearing.

Many women have reached the top of the profession, say the conference organisers. The task now is to open a smooth path for the rest.

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Legal successes: Helena Kennedy, QC, left, and Lesley MacDonagh, first managing partner of a big City law firm



## Achievement in the Law Awards

WHAT DO Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, Barbara Mills, QC, and Lesley MacDonagh have in common? They are all women "firsts": first in the Court of Appeal, first DPP and first managing partner of a big City law firm. Women are reaching these positions, but only now — such achievements are still rare enough to be newsworthy.

Today The Times launches a Woman of Achievement in the Law Award scheme, to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of women in the profession. Readers are invited to make their own nominations (by March 28, see coupon) and the winners will be announced at the Woman Lawyer Conference on April 12. There are two categories: first, for an individual, and second, for a law firm, chambers or legal department.

For the first, names being bandied about include Helena Kenne-



Question time: left, Cherie Booth, QC, and Kamlesh Bahl



dy, QC, Dame Mary Arden, Anne Rafferty, QC, and Laura Carstensen (equity partner at Slaughter & May). The women may be barristers, solicitors, judges, academics, magistrates, legal executives, barristers' clerks or administrators.

For the second, law firms Fisher

Meredith, Davies Arnold Cooper and Wilde Sapte have all been mentioned for their career or equality policies.

Margaret McCabe, whose idea the awards are, says: "Many women have achieved a great deal. Some in particular have done a lot

towards helping others, which is important. But the Queen Bee syndrome, by which women at the top block others, is a recurring problem. So we felt we wanted to recognise those women who had made a valuable contribution."

FIRST PRIZE: Six months' membership of Champneys, the London Club, and two first-class Eurostar tickets from London to Paris and return.

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### THE 1997 WOMAN LAWYER CONFERENCE

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## Victims' treatment means court is no trial

Roger Dobson on pioneering therapy that helps abused children while ensuring fairness for the accused



Children who have been sexually abused suffer many psychological and physical problems. Guilt, low self-esteem, fear, mistrust and confusion, as well as many physical symptoms, including self-harm, are among the traumatic consequences.

Tackled early, with skilled therapy, many problems can be brought under control. But many traumatised children and young people are being denied access to the help they need until the end of legal proceedings. This is because of fears that therapy will prompt claims that their evidence has been contaminated.

As a result, children may have to wait up to 18 months for skilled counselling to help them to cope. This delay can cause irreparable damage. Alternatively, some proce-

dures are dropped because the child is too traumatised to give evidence.

Allan Levy, QC, who chaired the Staffordshire pindown inquiry and is one of Britain's leading child care practitioners, believes it is time for national guidelines on how children should be treated. "In the criminal process," he says, "the child's welfare is an afterthought."

The Crown Prosecution Service, social workers and police in Cleveland are involved in a project managed by Barnardo's which does permit early intervention by a special team of therapists but governed by a tightly controlled proto-

col. In the past 18 months, eight cases were dealt with and in three, defence lawyers asked for the full log of therapy sessions, but in no case was the trial outcome affected by the therapy.

To avoid any challenge to the child's evidence, the strict protocol of the project stipulates that the young person will not take part in group therapy sessions, and will only ever be counselled one-to-one.

There is immediate and accurate recording of the sessions and a pro forma completed after each session, showing the name of the therapist and the length of the session, usually one hour. The form also

confirms that the child has not been a member of a group and is signed by the therapist. The completed form is attached to the CPS case file.

During the sessions there is no direct questioning of the child about the alleged abusive experience involved in the forthcoming court case. Should a child talk about the abuse, the therapists are instructed to deal with it in an unspecific way.

Tink Palmer, the project leader, says: "The police are informed prior to our taking a referral and the CPS is consulted to see whether it has finalised its work and whether there are objections. Usually, we become involved when the case is waiting

for trial. That can be a long time."

Detailed and dated files are kept for each session but are confidential. She adds: "Our policy on the files we have is to defend them. If any files are requested, we apply for non-disclosure under public interest immunity. We have been asked for the papers on three occasions and the judge at each hearing allowed the application, selecting the papers he thought relevant. If you don't have a proper protocol, criminal proceedings can be mucked up and cases can be lost."

An eight-minute video guide for child witnesses, made by the Cleveland project, is being launched by Barnardo's today. The video, plus support material, is aimed at helping children and young people who are likely to be witnesses in court and to be giving their evidence via a video link.





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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Philippa Teaffe on 0171 971 8826 or write to her at MSI Plc, 1 Harbour Exchange Square, London E14 9GE. Email: Philippa.Delargy@MSI-UK.com.

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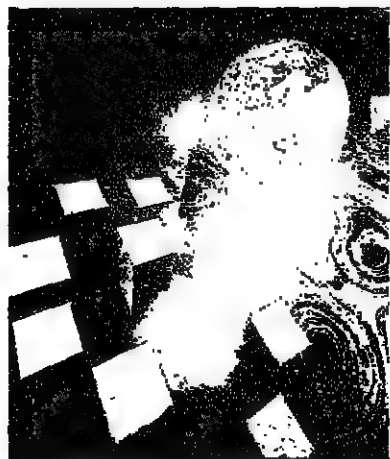
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RUGBY UNION

# Wales selectors keep faith with Thomas at No 10

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Wales selectors have picked a back division full of possibilities for their opening match of the five nations championship against Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday. In front of them, however, is a pack whose value remains undetermined on a ground where they have not won since 1985.

There are two changes from the XV that beat the United States 34-14 last Saturday, and there would not have been any if suspension had not removed Jonathan Humphreys, the captain and hooker, and illness Neil Jenkins, the full back. Both are expected to return, at the expense, respectively, of Gavin Jenkins and Justin Thomas, which suggests consistency on the part of the selectors even while doubts remain about the back five forwards and Arwel Thomas at stand-off half.

Humphreys, a sadder and wiser man after his dismissal playing for Cardiff against Brive earlier this month, reclaims the captaincy from Scott Gibbs. "I have learnt a great deal from Brive, although it was a harsh lesson,"

Humphreys, who has not played a championship match at Murrayfield before, said. He has been helped by Gareth Edwards, the former Wales scrum-half, who talked through with him the incidents that earned the suspension.

The clamour in favour of Dale McIntosh, the Ponty-

pridd flanker capped against South Africa last month, has been stifled by the fact that he has not recovered match fitness after breaking a cheekbone in training a month ago. Steve Williams remains at No 6, though there must have been a temptation to switch Colin Charvis to permit the

restoration of Gwyn Jones on the open-side flank.

"We did consider Gwyn in the starting line-up," Kevin Bowring, the coach, said, "and certainly we don't think he needs an A game." A year ago Jones was the old which would make the Welsh wheels run smoothly, but a half-season spent recovering from a shoulder operation has worked against him, while Charvis — the bigger man — has settled well into his international role.

Craig Quinell presented a powerful case in a short time as a replacement for Mark Rowley on Saturday, but the latter retains his place at lock, even though he was used very little at the line-out at the weekend. "Craig is developing all the time and offers us more mobility, but he needs to work on his line-out game," Bowring said.

Arwel Thomas will remember the game against Scotland last year for the conversion attempt to draw level that drifted wide in the dying moments. He has yet to learn consistency, but neither has he received a prolonged chance to do so. "Arwel is a durable little fellow who is very difficult to handle at times," Bowring said. "He always gets the best out of the back line and creates chances out wide."

The internationals this weekend, which do not involve England, have already accounted for Wasps game with London Irish and Newcastle's with Richmond in the Courage Clubs Championship. However, both the first division games on Sunday are expected to proceed: Saracens and Harlequins, who meet at Enfield, lose three players each and Northampton, who already play Bath without Jonathan Bell, and Allan Clarke, expect to lose two more when Scotland name their team today.

## John Hopkins recalls the Lions reaching perfection in 1980

# Best moment in the worst of times

### THE GREATEST TRY



I EVER SAW

There never was such a beautiful try in such pitiless surroundings as that scored in South Africa on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 21, 1980. It is nearly 17 years later, and that try, that Mike Slemen scored for the British Isles touring team — the Lions — has in no way diminished in the memory.

Though sometimes tame and inept, and sometimes filled with thud and blunder, rugby can be a savage and noble game. Such characteristics are enhanced in the beauty of the South Seas, or the rugged grandeur of a pitch in the Borders or Pontypool Park. Olen Park, Potchefstroom, was not like this. In 1980 Potchefstroom was a dorp, a one-horse town.

To be a reporter covering the Lions' tour of South Africa in 1980 was to have both the best and worst of assignments. It was the best because of the opportunity that it presented to travel through a fascinating and beautiful country watching companionable men play a lovely game. What made it among the worst was my belief that the Lions had no business to be in the country of apartheid, a country where one would experience what Nadine Gordimer referred to as "the dreadful calm of white society".

Several memories of 17 years ago explain the contrasts of South Africa then. One is of falling into conversation with a man, whom it is necessary to identify as white, in our hotel in Cape Town. He said that "blacks are less intelligent than whites. They have come down from the trees". It was as



Having been involved in the move early on, Slemen also applied the finishing touch

much as I could do to stop myself from hitting him. Yet in this same country I met Alan Paton, the author, visited townships where the spirit of the people was as uplifting as the conditions they lived in were awful, and experienced the stillness of a night in a game park.

I was not alone in harbouring ambivalent feelings. Several players told me during the tour that they had no idea

before they left home of what it was really like in South Africa. One said that, if he had known, he would not have gone on the tour.

It was not, then, an ordinary Lions party or an ordinary Lions tour that arrived in Potchefstroom, nearly 5,000 feet above sea level, to the southwest of Johannesburg, for the game against a South African Invitation XV. Derek Quinell, the father of Scott

and Craig, captained the team, and for long periods of the game it looked as though the Lions would be beaten.

Four times they trailed and only ten minutes remained when Kahisa, the Invitation XV's hooker, threw the ball in at a line-out. It was won at the back by John O'Driscoll, who palmed the ball down to Colin Patterson, the scrum half, who eagerly spun it away. David Richards, the stand-off,

O'Driscoll for a second time, Gareth Williams, the other flanker, Quinell, Clive Woodward, in the centre, Slemen, the left wing, and Bruce Hay, the full back, all moved the ball around.

At one point Slemen pounced on a loose ball as a man pounces on his hat on a windy day. Williams was in the move again and again, so was Richards, and so was Jim Renwick, who could have ended it had he kicked for touch and nobody would have complained. The imp of mischief, though, was on his forehead and, jinking out of defence, he set the move going once more. So it went on. Alan Phillips, the hooker, passed to Patterson, who passed to Elgan Rees, and, when a third ruck formed, Patterson darted off again.

In the stand we were on the edge of our seats as Renwick, Woodward and Patterson were involved once more. Then Hay barged through two tackles and Slemen who, seeing his team-mate nearing the touch-line, cut infield to receive Hay's pass. His slashing diagonal run caught the one remaining South African player wrong-footed and Slemen was able to touch down for a try.

Thirty-one pairs of hands had moved the ball around so that the 32nd pair could score. The try had taken 1 minute and 36 seconds and I rate it as better than the celebrated try scored by the Barbarians against the All Blacks at Cardiff in 1973 because it came after 72 minutes' highly competitive play at altitude.

For me, the try represented not only a moment of near perfection in rugby but also a demonstration of moral superiority in an Afrikaner-dominated town over racist South Africa as a whole. I hated moments of this tour, loved others. This, though, was a moment that I would treasure for the rest of my life.

### TOMORROW

Christopher Irvine recalls a code-breaker's finest moment at Wembley

## Ashton keeps it simple

BRIAN ASHTON began plotting a five nations championship upset when he took his first training session at the Ireland coaching adviser yesterday. Ashton, the former Bath coach who was called in by the Irish after the resignation of Murray Kidd last week, was not involved in the selection of the team, but is excited by the prospect of being in charge for the match against France at Lansdowne Road on Saturday.

"It is a major challenge for me, but I haven't been chosen as much by anything for a long time," Ashton said. "My aim will be to develop

simple game and to imbue some traditional passion into Ireland's game. There are some outstanding players in this squad, and I'll be aiming to help them all to play the same way."

"Ireland are always dangerous when they are the underdogs. The match against France is a big one and I have a hunch we will be approaching it, but naturally I will not go into that now."

Leary, Halpin, the prop who was among the replacements, has been ruled out of the match with a knee injury. The fixture will be filled later this week.

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CRICKET: WHITE PRESSES CLAIM FOR ALL-ROUNDER'S ROLE IN TESTS WITH IMPRESSIVE RETURN

## Atherton struggles to find firm footing

FROM A CORRESPONDENT  
IN PALMERSTON NORTH

**PALMERSTON NORTH** (first day of four; England XI won toss; England XI, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 32 runs behind New Zealand Select XI)

WITH the exception of Michael Atherton, the England team could draw immense satisfaction from their day's work as the first-class programme in New Zealand opened against a strong Select XI at Fitzherbert Park.

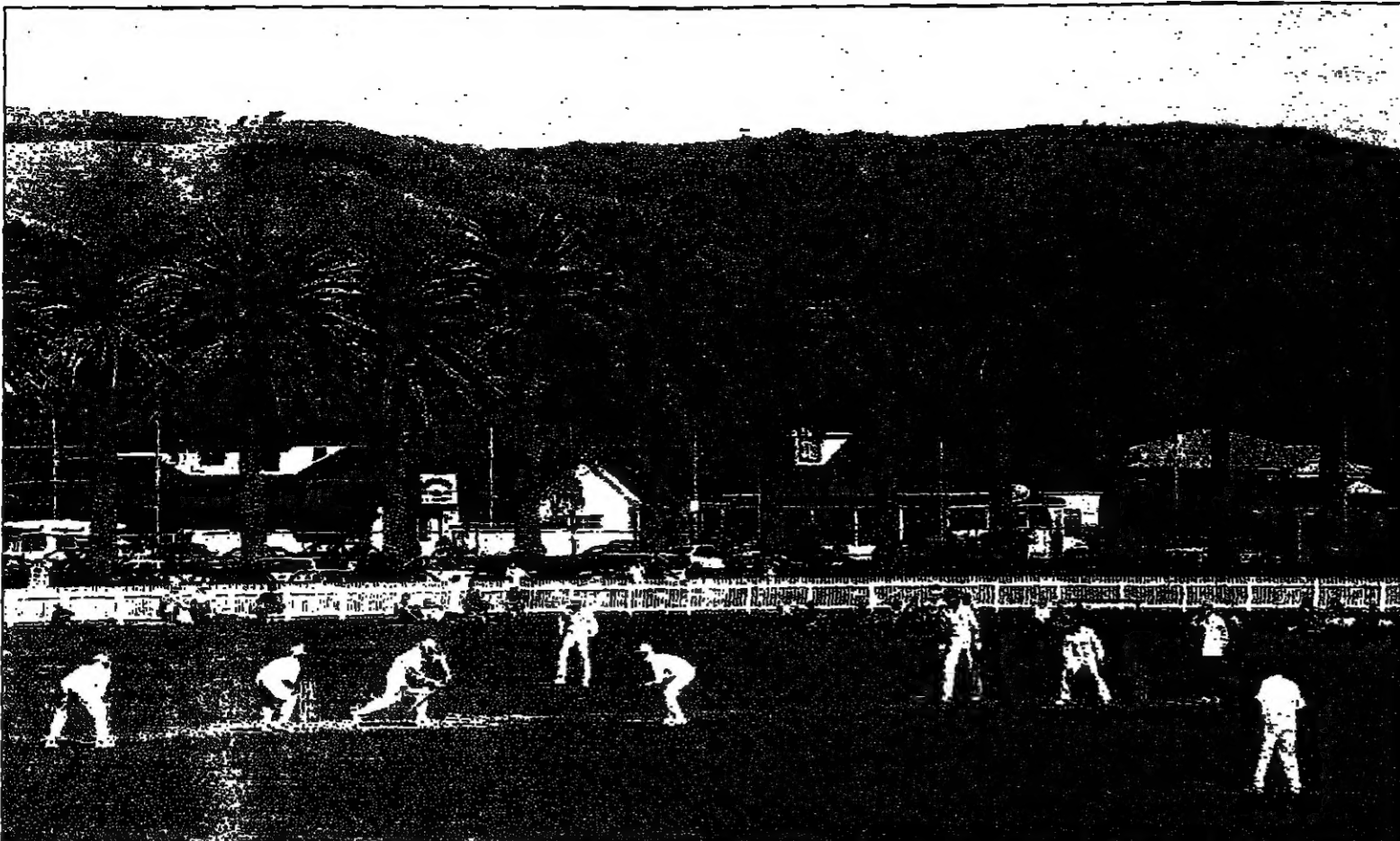
Atherton's miserable run of form continues. He was dismissed in single figures for the seventh time in 14 innings on tour and was fortunate to even get off the mark.

Batting looked a struggle for him as he encountered two of the quickest New Zealand bowlers, who were looking to attract the attention of the selectors before the first Test at Auckland. Danny Morrison has to prove his fitness after a recent groin operation and Robert Kennedy was disappointed to be overlooked for the two Tests on the recent tour to Pakistan.

The opportunities offered by a well-grassed pitch with plenty of bounce and carry were too tempting to ignore. In Morrison's lively first over, Atherton, on night, failed to get over a ball that dropped just short of gully. He was also twice beaten outside his off stump.

Kennedy does not possess Morrison's raw pace, but moves the ball through the air and off the seam. Although Atherton has been working hard on his footwork, it failed him again when Kennedy, 24, from Dunedin, made the ball nip back off a good length.

In the early overs of the England innings Nick Knight and Alec Stewart were also troubled, but the Select XI had little to offer after the frontline pair, Knight and Stewart, had enjoyed consistent success over the past seven weeks and, on a surprisingly fast outfield, they punished every loose ball



The palm trees of Fitzherbert Park provide a stunning backdrop as Stewart plays forward. Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

that came their way. There were plenty from which to choose.

In 21 overs they compiled an unhurried partnership of 75 that allowed England to end the first day of only 32 runs behind the Select XI's 138 all out with seven wickets in hand — a dominant position against a side containing eight players with Test experience.

Knight, however, failed by four runs to complete a half-century. He was out glancing down the leg side when Morrison returned for a second spell. The sight of Andrew Caddick appearing as a nightwatchman with 25 minutes of the day remaining suggests that it will take several more competitive days

## PALMERSTON NORTH SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND SELECT XI: First Innings	
B A Pocock c Thorpe b Caddick	19
C J Spearman b White	1
A C Parore c Atherton b Silverwood	0
M A Home c Silverwood b Cork	22
M J Gushock c Cork b White	10
G J Howell c Caddick b Cork	10
J T C Vaughan b White	24
P J Wiseman c Silverwood b Silverwood	0
M J Haslam run out	0
D N Morrison c Thorpe b White	4
R J Kennedy not out	1
Extras (b 4, nb 2)	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-18, 2-53, 3-58, 4-81, 5-83, 6-87, 7-96, 8-128, 9-137

**BOWLING:** Cork 17-42-2, Caddick 16-3, 5-63, 6-87, 7-96, 8-128, 9-137

before confidence is fully restored to the England camp, but in the present climate, any success has to be savoured.

England's bowling never quite matched Morrison for

speed, but showed what may be achieved through persistent accuracy backed with high class fielding.

Dominic Cork swung the new ball without achieving the

success that he deserved and, as the shine began to wear off, an opening stand of 48 between Blair Pocock and Chris Spearman looked ominous. However, Thorpe's safe hands at slip accounted for Pocock off the bowling of Caddick, and Atherton reacted with alacrity at backward point to bring to a fierce cut by Adam Parore.

The most informative England bowling performance was produced by Craig White, who is being given an extended chance to secure the regular all-rounder's place after his successes on the A team tour of Australia.

His first ball, which clearly resembled a gentle looser, was dragged on by Spearman, but it was the extra pace that his slinging action can create

that surprised Mark Greatbatch, who mistimed a back-foot drive to wide gully shortly after lunch.

With Silverwood, Cork and Caddick striking at regular intervals, the Select XI were in danger of failing to reach three figures before an awkward stand was allowed to develop between Justin Vaughan and Mark Haslam, the left-handers.

It was broken, however, when Knight's direct throw from third man ran out Haslam, and White was then recalled to tidy up the tail in emphatic fashion. Thorpe picked up a second snail's pace catch and Vaughan was bowled offering no stroke to give White a return of four for 15 from nine overs.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: UNDERDOGS BOW TO REALITY AND EXPERIENCE AS GREEN BAY FINALLY RETURN TO SUPER BOWL

## Packers revive memories of the Lombardi legend

BY OLIVER HOLT

SOME of the romance disappeared with the vanquished, but the majority of it survived with the victors. Carolina Panthers and Jacksonville Jaguars, the underdogs, fell at the final hurdle before the Super Bowl on Sunday, but Green Bay Packers ensured that American football's showpiece event will be a festival of nostalgia when they bulldozed their way to their first appearance in it for 29 years.

For the first time, the Packers will be able to compete for the trophy named after their late, great coach,

Vince Lombardi, the prize that is awarded to the Super Bowl winners. Their only remaining obstacle is New England Patriots, who ended the Jaguars' upstart dream in the snow of Massachusetts late on Sunday.

The Packers were the first to book their place in New Orleans on January 26. After a faltering start from Brett Favre, their quarterback, who was recently named the most valuable player in the National Football League (NFL) for a second successive season, they stepped up a gear and cruised past opponents who have been in existence for only 18 months, winning 30-13.

"We congratulate Green Bay," Bill Polian, the Panthers' general manager, said. "They beat us every way you can. There's no question they were the better team by a wide margin. If they are the benchmark, we have got a long way to go."

Despite enduring three hours in temperatures that sank well below zero, most of the crowd stayed behind after the game to hear an emotional speech from Reggie White, the Packers' fearsome defensive end. "I hope you're proud of us, Green Bay," White said to the 60,000 supporters, "because we're proud of you."

The Packers, though, are likely to

face the strongest challenge from an American Football Conference team since Los Angeles Raiders scored the conference's last victory, over Washington Redskins, in 1984. The Patriots, led by Drew Bledsoe, their richly talented quarterback, and steadied by a rock-solid defence, should at least ensure that the match is not the one-sided affair that it has fallen into in recent years.

The Patriots have appeared in the Super Bowl only once before, when they lost 46-10 to Chicago Bears in 1986, also in New Orleans, but the way that their defence shut down Mark Brunell, the league's leading

passer, on Sunday reinforced the belief that they will be a tough challenge for Favre and the Packers.

Brunell had brought the Jaguars close to an equalising touchdown late in the fourth quarter before he was intercepted and New England eased away to win, 20-6. If the Patriots beat the Packers, Bill Parcells, their coach, will become the first in the NFL to take two different teams to the sports' top prize.

"We know we're the underdog," Willie McGinest, of the Patriots, said. "Everybody expects us to lose again, but we are going to go out there and show them what we can do."

## SPORTS QUIZ

## Winner claims six of best

MARGARET HARRIS, of Southampton, is the winner of The Times 1996 Quiz of the Sporting Year. Miss Harris will receive the first prize of six bottles of Glen Orch 12-year-old single malt whisky. The six runners-up will each receive a copy of Visions of Tennis, a collection of the work of the Allsport photographic agency. The runners-up are Anthony Lowe, of Potters Bar; Mrs J Lewis, of Eastleigh; Andrew Slack, of Chesterfield; Anne Roberts, of Romsey; Ray Grange, of Holmwood; and Angela Murphy, of Pinxton.

ANSWERS: 1. Basil O'Rourke; 2. St Leger (Mullagh Murphys); 3. France; 4. Fawcett; 5. Boris Becker; 6. Ron Pickering; 7. Mick Fleetwood; 8. Sailing (the rest of the list is in the Whitehead Round the World Race); 9. Flying (they were birds); 10. The University of London; 11. Duane Ludwig; 12. Luther Blissett and Kenny Jackett; 13. Alberto Tomba; 14. MS Callaghan; 15. 1972; 16. Richie Richardson; 17. Rob Vauck; 18. Rob Williams; 19. the Durrant and Mac; 20. 20; 21. Loris; 22. 1988; 23. William "The Refrigerator" Perry; 24. 20; 25. David Seaman; 26. David Seaman; 27. 20; 28. 20; 29. 20; 30. 20; 31. 20; 32. 20; 33. 20; 34. 20; 35. 20; 36. 20; 37. 20; 38. 20; 39. 20; 40. 20; 41. 20; 42. 20; 43. 20; 44. 20; 45. 20; 46. 20; 47. 20; 48. 20; 49. 20; 50. 20; 51. 20; 52. 20; 53. 20; 54. 20; 55. 20; 56. 20; 57. 20; 58. 20; 59. 20; 60. 20; 61. 20; 62. 20; 63. 20; 64. 20; 65. 20; 66. 20; 67. 20; 68. 20; 69. 20; 70. 20; 71. 20; 72. 20; 73. 20; 74. 20; 75. 20; 76. 20; 77. 20; 78. 20; 79. 20; 80. 20; 81. 20; 82. 20; 83. 20; 84. 20; 85. 20; 86. 20; 87. 20; 88. 20; 89. 20; 90. 20; 91. 20; 92. 20; 93. 20; 94. 20; 95. 20; 96. 20; 97. 20; 98. 20; 99. 20; 100. 20.

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Last snow
AUSTRIA					
Obergurgl	40	150	good, varied	good	sun 0 4/1
Saï	25	65	hard varied	icy	sun 4 5/1
St Anton	15	100	(Milder weather and softer snow; south slopes worn)		-2 4/1
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	100	250	good, varied	good	fine 1 10/1
Mégève	60	180	good varied	good	sun 0 9/1
La Tania	100	150	good, mogule	good	fine -1 10/1
Val d'Isère	90	230	good, varied	fine	sun -6 9/1
Val Thorens	150	240	good, varied	good	sun 1 9/1
ITALY					
Cortina	50	130	good, crusty	good	sun -1 10/1
Livigno	95	200	good, mogule	hard	sun -8 7/1
SWITZERLAND					
Mürren	60	160	good, varied	good	fine -3 10/1
Sass Fee	85	295	good, varied	fine	sun -2 6/1

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

Answers from page 48

## PRESIDIARY

(a) Of pertaining to, or serving as a garrison, garrisoning. Or, having a garrison, garrisoned. From the Latin *praesidium* a presiding over, defence, assistance, a garrison. "Britain had been nominally recovered, but the presidary legions had been withdrawn."

## RIPON

(b) A name for spurs. Toponym from the name of a town in Yorkshire (now written Ripon). Used attributively or elliptically as a designation for spurs, for the manufacture of which Ripon was formerly famous. "Around were hung a Highland broadsword from Floddenfield; a pair of Ripon spurs from Bantockburn."

## PREB

(c) Scottish and northern dialect. To make proof or trial of. To try what (a thing) is like, especially by tasting. To prove the moir' of an thought or preening lasses' notions now."

## RATAPLAN

(d) A drumming or beating noise, a tattoo, rube-dub. The French word of exotic origin. *Outda, Under Two Flags, 1882*: "She laughed and drummed the rataplan with her brass heel."

## SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Nc3 leaves White without a reasonable reply, e.g. 2 Rxe5 Rxd1 or 2 f4 Qc5 and 3... Nxd1 winning the bishop.

## A courageous undertaking

In Company With Sondheim. Radio 2, 10.00pm.

To write a musical without being called Lloyd Webber takes nerve, among other attributes: to write a musical and be interviewed about it by Stephen Sondheim takes raw courage; but Sondheim has been kind to his guests in this revealing series and he commends that policy with Richard Taylor tonight in a programme about Taylor's musical, *Whistle Down The Wind*. Taylor, who worked from the Waterhouse-Hall screenplay, says that musicals are about "getting into people's heads" and Sondheim admires the way "the singing flows naturally from the dialogue" in Taylor's work, a trick of which Sondheim is one of the great exponents. Excerpts are sung by Tim Godwin, Lucy-Anne Branshaw, Nicola Swift and the Stephen Hill Singers.

Jazz Notes. Radio 3, 12.30am.

This is the start of a series within a series, a four-partner on the saxophone, an instrument which, in all its guises from soprano to baritone, has the texture and seductiveness of velvet. The presenter of *Jazz Notes*, Dave Gelly, could teach some of the new dogs of radio a trick or two, for Gelly knows that we appreciate him because he lets us appreciate the music. I had no idea that the sax began life as a Hawaiian, Young, Bechet — it became, and remains, the instrument that defines jazz. Yet why *Jazz Notes* remains ghettoised at this hour is both a mystery and a disgrace.

Peter Barnard

## RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo, includes Dead or Alive 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00pm Noddy Campbell, with the Tearing Topical Triple Tracker 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session with Steve Lamacz and Jo Wiley 8.00 Gong Film with Mark Kermode and Moby Ann Hobbs. A weekly look at the cinema, includes a special guest choosing their favourite film in a Night in Casablanca 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Chris Shergill 4.00am Chris Warren, with the Early Breakfast Show

## RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wogan, includes 9.15 Praise for The Lord 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Throver 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Haynes over Britain 8.30 Who? The Ghosts of N Space (1) 8.30 Don't Blame Me (1) 10.00 In Company With Sondheim. See Choice 10.30 The Jamesons 12.00am Adrien Fronght, includes 1.30 Praise for The Lord 3.30 Steve Marriott

## RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.30 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Matt 2.00pm Russell on News 4.00 National 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match, Ian Carter introduces action from all the FA Cup third round replays 10.00 News Talk, with Nigel Cassidy 12.00 Night Extra, with Valerie Salazar 12.00am After Hours, with Vincent Hanna 2.00am All Night with Fred Sharp

## TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy War 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Christie 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Drivetime, with Peter Dinkley 7.00 Mox Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

## RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, includes Dvorak (Symphony No 1 in C minor, The Tale of Zerkow) Schubert (Wanderer Fantasy, D760); Debussy (Cello Sonata); James Knox (Piano Concerto in D); Les, inner Singleton (Four Songs for Bass Quintet); Strauss (Suite for Rosekavalier)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Caroline Young, includes Walton (A Song for the Lord Mayor's Feast); Mozart (Symphony No 36 in C, Urp) 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Nick Morgan, includes Tchaikovsky (Quartet Movement in B flat); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 23 in A, K488); Poulenc (Sonata for two Guitars); Holst (Sonnet Musically Schubert (Three Piano Pieces, D464); Stravinsky (Symphony in Three Movements); Strigilo (Ecco Beatum Lucam)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Ravel 1.00pm News: Visitors to the Proms, Russian National Orchestra, under Mikhail Pletnev, Haydn (Symphony No 100 in G, Military); Lyadov (Baba-Yaga, The Enchanted Lake, Klemm); Prokofiev (Symphony No 7) (1)

2.30 Ensemble, presented by Penny Gore (1) 3.15 The BBC Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under Tadaaki Ochiai, with John Lla piano, Stravinsky (Suite: The Firebird); Prokofiev (Piano Concerto No 1); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 2 in E minor) (1) 5.00 Music Machine

5.55 Shipping (LW) 6.00 News: British 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.50 News: Wales 9.00 News 9.05 Call West Coast 0171-580 4444

10.00 News: Dillie's Dent (FM), Dillie Kent continues her visit to the West Country 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Medicine Now, Should the victims of brain injury be added to the list of citizens the Government wants to keep off the road? Geoff Watts reports

12.00 News: You and Yours 12.30pm Cross Questioned, Vincent Hanna is joined by Francis Wheen, David Quattric and Gill Pym 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clooney 1.40 The Shipping 1.55 Shipping 2.00 News: Thirty Minute Theatre: Fall from Grace, by Jude Atkinson, with Shaun Parkes and Juliet Cowen 2.30 A Man for All Music, a profile of André Previn. In the first of four programmes, he talks to June Knox-Mower about the extraordinary range of his musical interests (1)

3.00 The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Paul Vaughan discusses the success of the television drama series about dustmen, *Common as Muck*, and reads Lella Berg's book on growing up in Manchester before the war 4.45 Short Story: Story within a Story, by Alison Leonard

5.00 News 5.05 Shipping 5.55 Shipping 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 6.45 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 6.55 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 7.00 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 7.15 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 7.30 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 7.45 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 7.55 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 8.00 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 8.15 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 8.30 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 8.45 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 8.55 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 9.00 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 9.15 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 9.30 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 9.45 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 9.55 News: Eye View: The Vessel of Wrath, Dromedary 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# Can somebody tell me what's going on?

The search for truth is, of course, the basis of most detective series. This is the reason why detective series are endlessly produced for telly: also why *The X-Files* can go on for ever, why, in every episode, of *EastEnders* these days several characters demand in a loud, huffy way "What's going on, Grant?" until the repetition makes you want to scream. Somehow the request for an explanation always comes out the same way, you see. "Grant, What's going on?" "Grant, why won't you tell me what's going on?" are thrilling variations on the basic theme, of course, but can't quite satisfy the audience's hunger for fresh sentiments. An exasperated "Grant?", incidentally, is now sufficient to imply "What's going on without the words actually needing to be uttered."

Last night's featured two major fiction series, both sorting out the supposed what's-going-on

with pleasant ease. One of these series — *McCallum* (ITV) — was traditional, and I'll deal with it first because probably a lot more people watched it. *McCallum* stars the beautiful John Hannah as a conscientious Scottish pathologist working in London. Somehow, banishing from his mind the unfortunate Amanda Burton problem (she's done the pathologist-hero series already on BBC1), Hannah does his green plastic gummy and gets delving. For him, truth is something routinely uncovered with each new cadaver delivered to his slab. Refreshingly, *McCallum* has no gimmicks, save perhaps for Hannah being cool and Scottish and a heart-throb.

No, the only gimmick in *McCallum* is to disguise a perfectly straightforward and comfy who-dunnit (death of Jewish baker in mysterious circle), by dressing it up with fancy city-lights photography and rooey blue music to make it seem modern and edgy and challenging. A plot that is a nice mug of cocoa is presented more like gin from a paper bag. Dangerous, ugly actors are cast in quite workaday roles — Gerard Murphy, as the unremarkable police inspector, has a cloven forehead and one eye bigger than the other. Meanwhile *McCallum*'s colleague Paddy — a pathologist literally losing his grip — is played by Richard Moore, the scary man in *Band of Gold* who did unimpressive things while Carl paraded in silk stockings. But the man in rubber gloves and automatically half the audience faints with horror.

Over on Channel 4, at the same time as *McCallum*, we got the newly imported *Dark Skies* — a series which cunningly plucks together all the paranoid imaginings of *The X-Files*, *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, and Oliver Stone's *JFK*. It's quite a simple premise, once you think of it, and it was bound to happen. All generations rewrite history to link together the few events they now account important in their past. It's just unfortunate that in the popular American mind, the towering high point of the 20th century is nowadays the Roswell incident.

So we're off on a truth-is-out-there quest with a new spin. Preppy young John Loengard arrives in Washington DC in 1961 and uncovers a conspiracy to cover up an alien invasion! He sees a Roswell alien in a big filing cabinet. An autopsy is performed on a murderous crop-farmer, and he turns out to have a wriggly, screaming "ganglion" living in his brain! The truth is overrated, John, warns the menacing Captain Bach, but of course it isn't. The truth is HUGE. The only niggle is the usual one: if the aliens can zap anybody they want to, why are they so selective and scheming? Why do they waste their precious alien time doodling crop circles on the countryside, infiltrating governments, and mentally torturing a harmless man like Loengard?

*Dark Skies* ended last night (after a slightly annoying two hours; I really should read listings more carefully) with Loengard, armed with "the thing they fear the most" — ie, The Truth. He's got a bright blue car with fins, incidentally, also a girlfriend he rescued from the aliens by injecting nail polish remover in the back of her head. And there, if I'm not mistaken, is a sentence you never thought you'd read.



Lynne Truss

- BBC1**
- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (2655)
  - 7.00am BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (1) (21917)
  - 9.00am BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (1) (487917)
  - 9.30am ALL OVER THE SHOP (583919)
  - 9.45am KILROY (1039443)
  - 10.30am CANT COOK, WONT COOK (73207)
  - 11.00am NEWS (1) and weather (533979)
  - 11.05am THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (348912)
  - 11.45am SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (511462)
  - 12.00pm NEWS (1) and weather (727714)
  - 12.05pm THE ALPHABET GAME (516595)
  - 12.30pm GOING FOR A SONG (481153)
  - 12.55pm THE WEATHER SHOW (273082)
  - 1.00pm NEWS (1) and weather (24004)
  - 1.30pm REGIONAL NEWS (4486714)
  - 1.40pm NEIGHBOURS (7488511)
  - 2.05pm THE FLYING DOCTORS (1) (8820424)
  - 2.45pm PUT IT TO THE TEST (380643)
  - 3.10pm WEAR IT WELL (3364172)
  - 3.30pm PLAYDAYS (338172) 3.50pm Casper Classics (2501191) 3.55pm Hubbub (134223) 4.10pm Prince of Atlantis (188258) 4.35pm The Mask (789505) 5.00pm Newsworld (1) (543037) 5.10pm The Biz (1) (193006)
  - 5.35pm NEIGHBOURS (1) (107733)
  - 6.00pm NEWS (1) and weather (511)
  - 6.30pm HOLIDAY JIL Dando goes on an all-inclusive holiday in France; Monty Doo travels to Sandrine; Liza Sherman tours the Derbyshire Dales by coach; and guest presenter Martin Clunes reports from the Hawaiian Islands of Maui (1) (1882)
  - 7.30pm EASTENDERS The residents of Walford, Arthur and Frankie, head back to the city (1) (575)
  - 8.00pm CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL The residents of the best of the best in the city (1) (171)
  - 8.30pm THE DETECTIVES First in a series of one-off one-hour detective stories, Robert Powell and Jasper Carrott (1) (5832)
  - 9.00pm NEWS (1) and weather (5917)
  - 9.30pm HARRY ENFIELD AND CHUMS Tonight's sketches feature Toby Boy and Wayne and Wanda, by the way, by the way (1) (71337)
  - 9.50pm CRIMEWATCH UK Tonight's cases include a bank robbery in Dundee, Scotland, and a rape in Prestatyn in North Wales (1) (188608)
  - 10.45pm OMNIBUS: Dancing through Darkness A film portrait of the last ten years of Rudolf Nureyev's life (1) (10168)
  - 11.40pm CRIMEWATCH UK Update (1) (87578) 11.55pm WATERS: 11.40pm Inland Bowls (454065) 12.20pm Crimewatch UK Update (284467) 12.30pm FILM: The Good Wife (72825) 12.55pm Film (1844202)
  - 11.55pm FILM: The Good Wife (1887) starring Rachel Ward and Bryan Brown: A bored housewife in 1930s Australia has her life turned upside down by the arrival of a handsome stranger. Directed by Ken Cameron (229935)
  - 12.00am WEATHER (5839194)

- BBC2**
- 7.15pm SEE HEAR BREAKFAST NEWS (513355) 7.30pm Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch! (257273) 7.55pm Blue Peter (287288) 8.30pm Johnson and Friends (300653) 8.55pm The Record (351843) 9.00pm Dayline on Two: Standard Grade English (487455) 9.20pm The Business Studies Collection (883773) 9.45pm Watch (834240) 10.00pm Playdays (8326) 10.30pm Come Outside (803801) 10.45pm Science Zone (587519) 11.00pm Space: Afters (630288) 11.15pm The Club (333775) 11.30pm Shakespeare: The Animated Tales - Julius Caesar (257581) 11.55pm Weather (834242) 12.00pm See Hear! (58701) 12.30pm Working Lunch (82443) 1.00pm Teaching Today (22646) 1.30pm Showcase (4489435) 1.40pm Hoot Pot House (5132473) 1.50pm Johnson and Friends (894250) 2.10pm Everyone's Got One: A new series exploring family life (832575) 2.30pm WATERS: Bowls
  - 3.00pm NEWS (1) and weather (5317801)
  - 3.05pm WESTMINSTER (728849)
  - 3.55pm NEWS (1) and weather (250804)
  - 4.00pm TODAY'S THE DAY (284) 4.30pm WATERS: Bowls (2501191) 4.55pm Hubbub (134223) 5.10pm Prince of Atlantis (188258) 5.35pm The Mask (789505) 5.50pm Newsworld (1) (543037) 5.10pm The Biz (1) (193006)
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  - 11.55pm FILM: The Good Wife (1887) starring Rachel Ward and Bryan Brown: A bored housewife in 1930s Australia has her life turned upside down by the arrival of a handsome stranger. Directed by Ken Cameron (229935)
  - 12.00am WEATHER (5839194)

- CHOICE**
- Wings: Making Chicks Channel 4, 8.00pm
  - An eight-part series on British birds combines expertise with accessibility. It explores the behaviour of the creatures, pays tribute to the dedication of those who turn out at all times and in all weathers to watch them and offers the non-expert useful tips on where to spot birds and how to identify them. Any idea that *Wings* will turn out to be a sentimental walk-around our feathered friends is quickly dispelled. The opening programme reveals that when it comes to morality, fidelity or responsibility, some species are sadly lacking. Take the sand martin. It is nothing for males from one nest to mate with the female from another, or for the female to find another nest and dump some of her eggs in it. The cuckoo's behaviour is no better, witness the ruthless way its chicks ensure their survival.
  - Peak Practice: Eye of the Storm ITV, 9.00pm
  - Some of us felt during the last run of the medical saga that the show was beginning to run out of energy and ideas. But this was clearly a minority view. More than 12 million people continued to watch each week, making another series inevitable. So here we are back at the Beeches and even the most sceptical will have to concede that there is life in the old formulae yet. Among attention-grabbing plotlines, Dr Kate (Sheila Graham) is about to meet the self-playing Dr Wilson (Simon Shepherd) a father again, the hapless Dr Andrew (Gary Mavers) returns from exile and wants his old job back and Adrian Lukis joins the cast as the latest in a line of impossibly good-looking GPs. Meanwhile, outside the surgery, there is a battle for the custody of a ten-year-old.
  - Network First: Forgotten Mothers ITV, 10.40pm
  - It may be hard to comprehend in these more tolerant times but in the 1950s, and even as late as the supposedly permissive 1960s, being an unmarried mother carried a considerable social stigma. As a result many of the children were sent to boarding schools and their mothers were so ashamed of their past that they concealed them from later husbands and children. The film carries the stories of five women. All gave their babies away, all lived with a feeling of guilt and all have nursed the hope that they would see their children again. Their testimonies are moving, painful and delivered with transparent honesty. Some of the stories have a happy ending but the film also proves that tracking down a child after a long separation is no guarantee that a joyful reunion will follow.
  - OmniBus: Rudolf Nureyev - Dancing Through Darkness BBC1, 10.45pm (Scotland: Thursday, 11.15pm)
  - In 1983 Rudolf Nureyev was appointed artistic director of the Paris Opera Ballet and set about realising a hidebound institution. Soon afterwards he was diagnosed as HIV-positive and the hope he saw him fighting to sustain his passion for dance against the increasing ravages of the AIDS virus. When conservative forces in Paris finally ousted him, he toured America in *The King and I* and returned to the Kirov in St Petersburg for the first time since his defection in the 1960s. But was far too ill to mount one last tour. The most powerful image in the film is of Nureyev, dressed in a white tulle tutu, looking haggard and barely able to speak, taking his leave of the first-night audience. Three months later he was dead.

- HTV**
- 5.00pm GMTV (179917)
  - 5.25pm WNL, LOSE OR DRAW (881482)
  - 9.55pm REGIONAL NEWS (562407)
  - 10.00pm THE TIME, THE PLACE (70795)
  - 10.30pm THIS MORNING (83277191)
  - 12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (752398)
  - 12.30pm NEWS (1) and weather (482649)
  - 12.55pm SHORTLAND STREET (4894240) 1.25pm Home and Away (1) (8027240) 1.50pm Afternoon Live (7483443) 2.20pm Vanessa (1) (2364913) 2.50pm Afternoon Live (836198)
  - 3.20pm NEWS (5324191)
  - 3.25pm REGIONAL NEWS (6323463)
  - 3.30pm POTAMUS PARK (8297153) 3.40pm Widdowson (1417714) 3.50pm Rupert (3892356) 4.15pm Hey Arnold! (196327) 4.40pm Are You Afraid of the Dark? (437567)
  - 5.10pm YAN CAN COOK: THE BEST OF CHINA (805982)
  - 5.40pm NEWS (1) and weather (140511)
  - 6.00pm HOME AND AWAY (1) (131646)
  - 6.25pm HTV NEWS (1) (275443)
  - 7.00pm EMERGENCY Chris makes a proposal to Kim (1) (575)
  - 7.30pm GREAT WESTERN WOMEN A profile on the Marchioness of Waterbury, formerly actress Tracy Wiles (1) (443)
  - 8.00pm THE BILLS: Professional Opinion Daily and Sues investigate the death of a man whose mother is a drug addict (1) (2908)
  - 8.30pm PET POWER In the first of a new series, Andrea Turner meets a Labrador which rescued a drowning toddler, a parrot caught in a love triangle and a dog that helps around the house (1) (473)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.55pm-1.25pm A COUNTRY PRACTICE (4894240)
  - 5.10-5.40pm SHORTLAND STREET (805982)
  - 6.25-7.00pm CENTRAL NEWS (275443)
  - 7.30-8.00pm HEART OF THE COUNTRY (443)
  - 12.40pm COLLINS AND MACONIE'S MOVIE CLUB (4975573)
  - 1.15pm FILM: MAID TO ORDER (575573)
  - 2.55pm IN FOCUS (881689)
  - 3.40pm FOOTBALL EXTRA (285883)
  - 4.20pm CENTRAL JOBBING '97 (1274028)
  - 5.20pm ASIAN EYE (5453196)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.55pm-1.25pm ILLUMINATIONS (723998)
  - 12.55-1.25pm WISH YOU WERE HERE? (4894240)
  - 5.10-5.40pm HOME AND AWAY (805982)
  - 6.00-7.00pm WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (42488)
  - 7.30-8.00pm WILD WEST COUNTRY (443)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
  - 1.00-1.25pm SHORTLAND STREET (1307379)
  - 5.10-5.40pm HOME AND AWAY (805982)
  - 6.00pm MERIDIAN TONIGHT (207)
  - 6.30-7.00pm SURPRISE CHEFS (559)
  - 7.30-8.00pm OUT OF TOWN (443)
  - 11.40pm PRISONER: CELL BLOCK H (637714)
  - 5.00pm FREESCREEN (50573)
- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.15pm ANGLIA AIR WATCH (783733)
  - 12.55-1.25pm CROSSWITS (4894240)
  - 5.10-5.40pm SHORTLAND STREET (805982)
  - 6.25-7.00pm ANGLIA NEWS (275443)
  - 7.30-8.00pm OUT TO LUNCH WITH BRIAN TURNER (443)
  - 11.40pm SWIFT JUSTICE (937714)
- S4C**
- Starts: 6.00pm SESAME STREET (19269)
  - 7.00pm THE BIG BREAKFAST (14627)
  - 9.00pm BEWITCHED (60733)
  - 9.30pm YSGOLION (66943)
  - 12.00pm HOUSE TO HOUSE (57269)
  - 12.30pm HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (77511)
  - 1.00pm SLOTT MEITHRIN (17714)
  - 1.30pm FILM: THE LOVE LOTTERY (8288627)
  - 3.05pm FRESH POP (5662578)
  - 3.15pm MONTELL WILLIAMS (3242801)
  - 4.00pm FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (172)
  - 4.30pm TV DINNERS (358)
  - 5.00pm 5 PUMP (4356)
  - 5.30pm COUNTDOWN (808)
  - 6.00pm NEWYDDION (116462)
  - 6.05pm HEN (119424)
  - 6.35pm GAIM AIR AUR (487482)
  - 7.00pm POBOL Y CWYM (878085)
  - 7.25pm PUDLEG (3240)
  - 8.00pm PACIO (3240)
  - 8.30pm NEWYDDION (2375)
  - 9.00pm MARRIED A GREAT TRAIN ROBBER (8801)
  - 10.00pm BROOKSIDE (515988)
  - 10.35pm DARK SKIES: THE AWAKENING (446078)
  - 12.25pm-1.25pm HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREET (237912)

- NICKELODEON**
- 6.00pm Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (23858) 6.30pm Super Mario Bros (2337)
  - 7.00pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 7.15pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 7.30pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 7.45pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 7.55pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 8.00pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 8.15pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 8.30pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 8.45pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 9.00pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 9.15pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 9.30pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 9.45pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 10.00pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 10.15pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 10.30pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 10.45pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 11.00pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 11.15pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 11.30pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 11.45pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 12.00pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 12.15pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 12.30pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 12.45pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 1.00pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 1.15pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 1.30pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 1.45pm The Simpsons (1) (173573) 2.00pm The Simpsons (1) 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## RUGBY UNION 47

Welsh selectors keep faith with half-back pairing

# SPORT

TUESDAY JANUARY 14 1997

## CRICKET 50

Stewart dishes out punishment on England's behalf



Rusedski and champion make early exits in Melbourne heat

## Henman clears first barrier as Becker falls

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN MELBOURNE

IF TIM Henman needed any confirmation that "the readiness is all" and that a first grand-slam tennis championship is within his grasp, it came on a sweltering opening day of the Australian Open yesterday. As he made short work of Andre Pavel, a qualifier, Carlos Moya, the player whom he beat in Sydney on Saturday to claim his first ATP title, was putting out Boris Becker, the defending champion.

Moya, 20, from Barcelona, overcame Becker in five sets after Becker, the No 6 seed here but second favourite behind Pete Sampras to win the title, led twice. "It just goes to show there are some good players here," Henman said, betraying none of the emotions that he must feel in his private moments. If he has beaten one of the very best, which he did inside an hour in Sydney, then he should let boldness be his ally.

It was Moya's second victory over Becker in two meetings; the other in an indoor tournament in Paris last year. Becker made a full and frank disclosure in defeat. "I tried my best, but he was the better man and deserved to win," he said. "It was a very difficult first round match for me."

That was not a claim that Henman could make in good faith. After Mark Philippoussis, the local favourite, whom he should have played, pulled out on Sunday with tendonitis in his right arm, Henman did not have to exert himself too greatly to beat Pavel, 22, from Romania, 7-5, 6-4, 6-2.

On Henman's own admission, he did not play particularly well in the heat, which touched 90F, and he will be looking for a marked improvement when he meets Guil-



Moya: beat champion

laume Raoux, the Frenchman, in the second round tomorrow.

"I did not move my feet as well as I would have liked," Henman said. "There was a little bit of adjustment to be done [after playing in Sydney], but you have to set your standards high. Being ranked No 14 in the world is a goal I have achieved, and the next thing is to break into the top ten, which will not be easy."

"That was not the best tennis I have ever played," Henman said. "It was very spongy, and you have to pick your feet up

A smattering of English spectators in the modest crowd on Court One gave Henman a warm welcome, their voices becoming more encouraging as he achieved some degree of fluency in the second set, but there were plenty of bad shots mixed up with the good. He almost sliced a ballboy's nose off with one erratic return, and looked happy just to get the match out of the way.

Greg Rusedski, who went down in four sets to Felix Mantilla, another Catalan, could not claim even that, though, as the Mantilla, 22, is the No 14 seed, his defeat was no disgrace. It means that Henman carries British hopes on those deceptively slender shoulders.

Of Raoux, a Parisian ranked No 82 in the world, Henman would say only: "Obviously he's a good player." Raoux, 26, partnered Guy Forget in the doubles during the recent Davis Cup triumph over Sweden, but he meets an opponent in good form, who is beginning to come to terms with his new status. "The expectation has changed," Henman said. "I am now expected to win matches, and I suppose it's a good thing if I am creating some interest."

Becker's defeat means that the championship is open in character as well as definition. After losing to Moya 5-7, 7-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 in 3½ hours, Becker, who has won the championship here twice, had strong words about the softness of the modern tennis ball.

"I hit the ball harder and harder today, and lost my timing," Becker said. "I just couldn't get any power into my shots. With these softer balls we now use, we have many players with elbow problems



A dumbfounded Becker struggles to come to terms with his first round defeat

and wrist injuries, including myself. When you hit a soft ball, it goes right through your arm." Becker, it will be recalled, pulled out of Wimbledon last summer with a badly sprained wrist after failing to complete a set in his first round match.

The list of injured players who had to pull out of this championship has robbed the tournament of some flavour. Apart from Philippoussis, it includes two grand-slam tournament champions in Yevgeny Kafelnikov (broken hand) and Richard Krajicek

(knee), as well as Todd Martin (leg tendonitis), Cedric Pioline (back) and Andre Agassi (plain tired). Thomas Muster, Thomas Enqvist and Jim Courier have carried injuries into the event. In this heat, there will be some weary bodies on court.

## Robson left to wrestle with job dilemma

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE turmoil in the mind of Bobby Robson, as he sat on the bench at the Nou Camp last night, must have felt like a clamp tightening around the temples. His club, Barcelona, needed only to beat Hercules, of Alicante, to go above Real Madrid at the top of the Spanish league first division; and yet, win, lose or draw, there was another suitor. Sir John Hall, still trying to prise Robson away to Newcastle United.

It was more than rumour that Sir John, who takes a half-closed door as an invitation to get his way, intends one more attempt to persuade Robson to "come home" as Kevin Keegan's successor as manager. Indeed, Robson, late into last night, was speaking to José Luis Núñez, the president of Barcelona. He was seeking something that Núñez has never been known to give in effect, a written assurance that, in the event of a sudden reversal in form, the Barcelona coach would not be sacked, nor paid up and released from his £1 million-a-year contract.

Later, perhaps tomorrow or Thursday, there is a projected meeting between the heavyweights themselves, Sir John and Núñez, to decide the destiny of Robson. Remarkably, while Keegan is on the beach in Florida, Robson, 63 and a grandfather, who has been in the game for almost half a century, is agonising over two of the most challenging, prestigious and taxing jobs in the world game.

Somewhat, Robson's fire, his unbridled enthusiasm, remains an impassioned force. He wants to honour his contract in Catalonia, but he must always have wasted the opportunity to be associated with Newcastle, and his wife, certainly, would be thrilled at the prospect of settling down among relatives and friends where life for them both began.

Yet — and this was Robson's initial instinct — a contract must be honoured. Despite the heaviness with which he admitted the homecoming call had affected him, the statement that he was trying not to dither —

that he was working for the biggest and arguably the best football club on Earth — tugged in the opposite direction to Tyneside.

How could anyone have foreseen this dilemma 18 months ago, when Robson had an operation for a wound in the mouth? How would anybody know the agony of choice between a millionaire's salary under the sun in Barcelona and the same remuneration, the chance of being the first man in his lifetime to manage Newcastle to the championship of England, and after that to groom Peter Beardsley as his successor while carrying on the mission of ensuring Newcastle's future with a youth project?

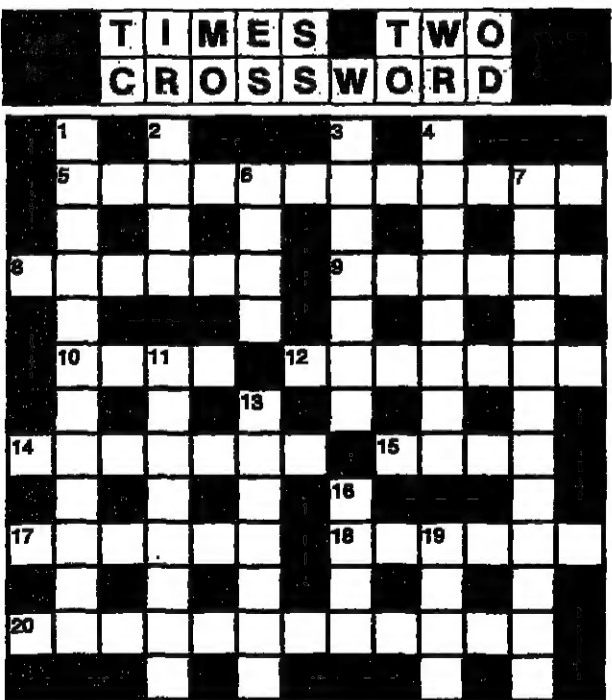
Sir John's ideal would be to bring Robson home on his holiday jet, but he might be made to accept a compromise that would leave Terry McDermott and Arthur Cox



Robson: agonising

in charge until the end of the season, with Robson then released — perhaps as coach of the Spanish champions — in time for the share flotation that accelerated this situation.

All the while, those who champion the return of Kenny Dalglish from his self-imposed retreat from the English club scene keep pointing out that there is a younger, proven contender, willing and able to start the Newcastle United job this morning. Dalglish has his supporters inside the Newcastle boardroom, too, but Sir John is a headstrong man with a vision of employing another son of a Durham miner, his own vintage, to replace Keegan.



No 990

### ACROSS

- 5 Lack of practice and knowledge (12)
- 8 African fly, cattle pest (6)
- 9 Bee farm (6)
- 10 Desire (4)
- 12 Hormone that diabetes lack (7)
- 14 Knoll; ice mound (7)
- 15 Garden pest; beetle (4)
- 17 Rhododendron-type plant (6)
- 18 Be copious (6)
- 20 Start to comprehend (3,3,4,2)

### DOWN

- 1 Piecing-together pastime (6,6)
- 2 Maintained; preserved (4)
- 3 Abandoned lover of Thebes (7)
- 4 Left over (8)
- 6 Seaside feature; sounds like lord (4)
- 7 Three Blind Mice assault weapon (7,5)
- 11 Make model of (activity); feign (8)
- 13 Glacial periods (3,4)
- 16 Island Jakarta is on (4)
- 19 Wild party (4)

### SOLUTION TO NO 989

ACROSS: 1 Antelope 5 Cade 9 Fairy 10 Routine 11 Complex 12 Get-up 13 Roosevelt 18 Rebut 20 Lattice 22 Portion 23 Biker 24 Reel 25 Detector  
DOWN: 1 Affect 2 Trimmer 3 Loyal 4 Par excellence 6 Exist 7 Exempt 8 Juggle 14 Outwit 15 Thicket 16 Proper 17 Terror 19 Bure 21 Table

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## Woods can tell the great from good

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IN Henry IV, Shakespeare wrote that greatness knows itself, and the Stratford scribe certainly knew a thing or two about such matters. The rest of us, however, have to content ourselves with signs in the sky and manifestations on Earth, and one stroke that we saw Tiger Woods hit on Sunday afternoon on a golf course in southern California looked like a pre-emptive strike for the kind of immortality that has been accorded to only a few in the history of the game.

It was not just that Woods won the tournament, nor was it that, in defeating Tom Lehman, he beat the American who voted the 1996 player of the year. Impressive as it was that Woods beat a field containing just about all leading players in the United States, and included Europeans such as Nick Faldo, this was not what caused golfers around the world to ask one another if they had seen what Woods did on Sunday.

Golf lends itself to moments of extreme drama. This is precisely what Woods's stroke on the first hole of a sudden death playoff was — a moment of real excitement, one every bit as thrilling as Gene Sarazen's famous four-wood at Augusta in 1935, and Sandy Lyle's seven-iron from a bunker at the 1986 Masters.

Woods seems to have been put on this Earth to confound us with his precocity and skill and to introduce golf to a new constituency. Only days past his 21st birthday and a professional for less than five months, Woods has already won \$1 million in prize-money, signed the biggest sponsorship deals in the history of the game and been named sportsman of the year in the United States.

## Pearce prepares for England call

By RICHARD HOBSON

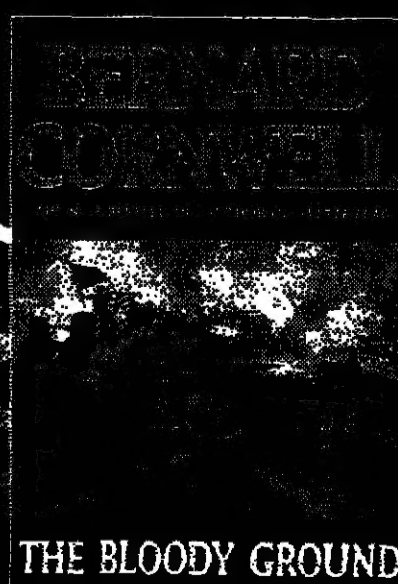
STUART PEARCE could become the first man to play for England while managing a club side, in the World Cup group two qualifier against Italy on February 12, after he received a ringing endorsement from John Gorman, the assistant to Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, yesterday.

When he accepted the job as caretaker manager of Nottingham Forest, Pearce stressed that he would refuse to take the post on a full-time basis if he felt that the added responsibility was affecting his game and hindered his future as an international player. However, Gorman was present at Forest's FA Carling Premiership win against Chelsea last Saturday, met Pearce, 34, after the game and was eulogising yesterday over his performance.

"I will tell Glenn that the extra responsibility has taken nothing away from Stuart's game," Gorman said. "He still has the desire and drive that we are looking for."

Given the longer build-up to modern international matches, it may be that Hoddle allows Pearce special dispensation to return to Nottingham at some stage during the week before the game against Italy, when his squad will be based at Bisham Abbey. "I am fairly confident that Glenn will understand the situation," Pearce said.

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